

THE JERUSALEM POST

Book Department
21 HaHismudim St. (1st floor)
Tel. 02-6241282
Sun. - Thurs. 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Fridays 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19536 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1997 • ADAR II 10, 5757 • 11 THU AL-QADAH 1417 NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

PLO-Israel began contacts in 1985

Page 4

Tempo family feud aftermath

Money Magazine

Committee begins Naharayim inquiry

Page 3

Index	
Business	8
Crossword	11
Movie/TV	11
Opinion	6
Sports	10
World News	5

Building at Har Homa begins

PM considers additional 1,000 homes for Palestinians near site

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL

Amid a chorus of condemnation from the international community, construction finally began on Har Homa yesterday afternoon.

In a statement to Palestine Radio, Arafat called on Palestinians not to commit violent

nearby site. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last night that the government would consider build-

Palestinians," said Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurie. "We don't want all this way of bluffing."

None of the concessions offered or being considered by Netanyahu are considered serious, since opening the airport, seaport, and a free passage route between Gaza and the West Bank are guaranteed under terms of the interim agreement.

US concerned over violence, Page 2

ing an additional 1,000 homes for Palestinians on a hilltop adjacent to Har Homa, which some have called Har Homa 2.

In an interview with Channel 2 last night, Netanyahu said he had discussed this idea with Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

"There is a nearby hilltop which we call Har Homa 2, which was expropriated from private Arab hands. We are considering turning this into an Arab neighborhood," Netanyahu said.

A few weeks ago, Netanyahu's announcement that Israel would permit 3,015 Palestinian homes to be built was met with massive derision by Palestinians, who insisted that he was not sincere. "We don't need houses for

Talks on interim issues will continue because they deal with issues that should have already been resolved, but final-status talks have been shelved, Palestinian sources said.

When asked last night what the message of Har Homa was to Palestinians, a senior US diplomat said, "Israel's message of Har Homa for Palestinians is 'Screw you.'"

He said there is no US diplomatic initiative afoot to resolve the crisis. There were Palestinian calls last night for another meeting of the UN Security Council. The US recently vetoed a resolution condemning Israel for the planned Har Homa construction.

Massive security, including



Border policemen protect construction equipment on Har Homa yesterday.

(Brian Hender)

army helicopters circling overhead, was deployed throughout the area and on the roads leading to the site, as police and the IDF were on full alert for any distur-

bances by protesting Palestinians. Bethlehem and Hebron were declared closed military areas. Joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols were temporarily suspended, and

Joseph's Tomb in Nablus was closed. All police leaves in Jerusalem were canceled. "From Radio Palestine and our intelligence sources, the response

so far has been moderate," said Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki.

Continued on Page 5

acts and not to be dragged into them by Israel. Nevertheless, about 50 Palestinian youths buried stones from Umm Tubas at the edge of the site, Reuters reported. They also burned tires and blocked a road. A handful of youths also scuffled with troops at another

A great media spectacle

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Never before have bulldozers and steam shovels performed before such a large and eager audience as that which was waiting for them at Har Homa yesterday afternoon.

A couple of thousand people were there, including members of the media, soldiers, police, border Police, MKs, and just plain gawkers.

But if they thought they were coming to see some kind of show-down, a demonstration, or violence, they were at the wrong spot. The huge security detail was prepared for any eventuality.

While rocks were thrown and tires burned in Bethlehem, here all the action took place on the treads. From every angle, from close-up to wide-angle, every pirouette performed by the construction equipment was photographed for history.

It was a perfect media event, and cynics could argue it was so staged by the government: a photo opportunity for TV cameras to get their pictures on the first day of the long-awaited event and then move on, allowing for the serious work to get started today. One Swedish TV crew, for example, had flown in Saturday night just to record this. It was replacing the regularly stationed crew that had recently gone to another hot spot - Albania.

The performance began at 2 p.m., when the four bulldozers and steam shovels set off from Kibbutz Ramat Rahel atop flatbed trucks to get to the theater in time for their 2:30 performance. After a morning of heavy rain, the skies had turned partly cloudy, and though cold and blustery, it was not enough to deter the multitude that came for the show.

On the way, the convoy - the flatbeds escorted by a dozen IDF and police vehicles - passed

Continued on Page 2

Hanegbi questioned again over Bar-On

By RAINE MARCUS

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi was questioned under caution in his Tel Aviv office yesterday for more than 15 hours regarding his role in the Bar-On Affair. He will probably be the last person questioned in the two-month long probe.

It was decided to question Hanegbi in Tel Aviv after much deliberation between police and his lawyer, Uri Wagman. This is the third time police questioned Hanegbi, who denies all allegations of wrongdoing and has maintained that he was marked by the Prime Minister's Office to be the

scapegoat in the affair. Police concentrated on Hanegbi's statements to government ministers about the govern-

Inquiry wrap-up, Page 12

ble suitability of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general and allegations that he "embellished" Bar-On's resume when discussing the appointment with Supreme Court

Continued on Page 2

B.T.C. Travel & Tours
3 Ben Shimon St. Jerusalem
TEL: 02-6233990
FAX: 02-6257827

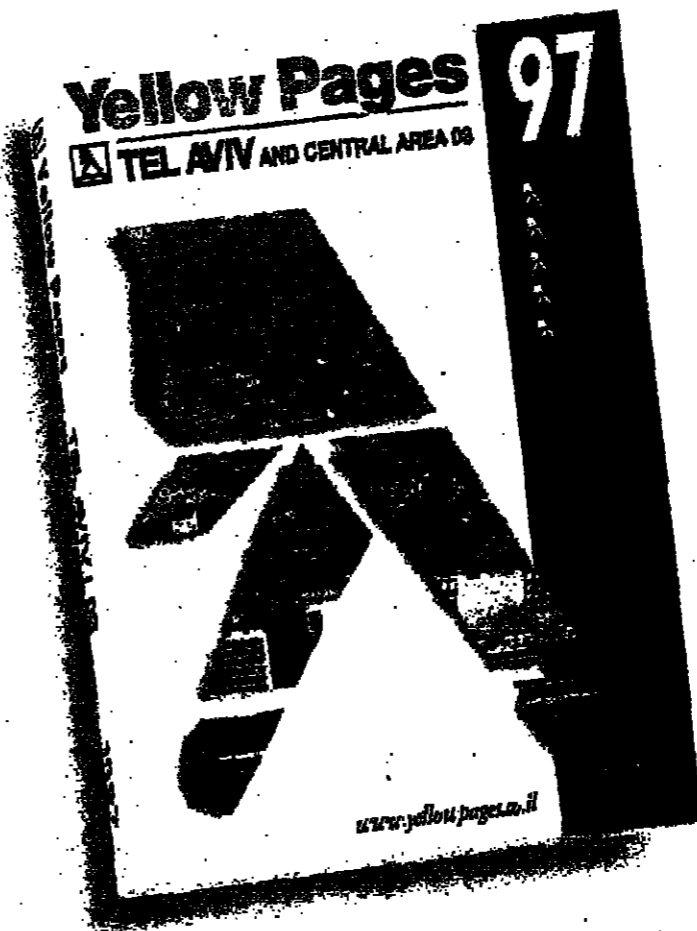
DAILY ORGANISED TOURS TO JORDAN
1, 2 and 3 Day Tours
Excellent Itineraries
Guaranteed Departures (Minimum 2 Passengers)
Tailor made packages • Private organized tours
Suitable for individuals, Families and Groups

Other Tours Available:
EGYPT 2 to 10 day tours SINAI 2 to 4 day tours ISRAEL Daily sightseeing tours

Look for Super Savings Coupons

HYPERCOL
in tomorrow's
JERUSALEM POST

NEW, FREE THE TEL-AVIV (03) YELLOW PAGES IN ENGLISH



The Tel-Aviv Yellow Pages Directory in English will shortly be sent free of charge, by mail, to all Jerusalem Post subscribers in the 03 dialing area. It will also be available at all news stands in that area, on March 21, 1997.

GOLDEN PAGES
LET YOUR FINGERS DO THE WALKING



509007

Kahalani: We're ready for any flare-up

By LIAT COLLINS

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani was called from the cabinet meeting on Har Homa yesterday morning to address a subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on the subject. "I think it would be a mistake to give

in to threats," Kahalani told parliamentary reporters. "We've been aware of the threats for a long time. We're prepared for any flare-up, and our response will be quick and hard whenever necessary."

Asked about the reports that Yasser Arafat is not restraining Hamas and other groups threatening a violent reaction to the construction, Kahalani said if the reports are true, "[Arafat] is making an historic mistake from his point of view."

Kahalani said he believes Arafat might be trying to deliberately torpedo the peace process by allowing Hamas and Islamic Jihad to act against Israel. He said he knew of no attempts to formulate

a "package deal" with the Palestinians to allow the building to go ahead unhindered in return for giving the Palestinians certain other concessions, despite reports to that effect.

He called for restraint and said people must understand "that Jerusalem is our capital and we will build there. I expect restraint from both sides for the sake of

the peace process which is good for both peoples."

Kahalani said the security establishment is "more cautious" following the disturbances that followed the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit last September. "We have thought of all the possibilities and are ready to deal with them," he said.

He said the security establishment gives its assessments to the decision makers in the government but does not give an opinion on whether the work should or should not go ahead.

Batsheva Tsor adds: The High Court of Justice is due today to hear three petitions against the building at Har Homa.

Foreign Ministry tries to counteract PA accusations

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

As the Palestinians continue to charge that Israel is violating the Oslo Accords with its construction plans for Har Homa - an allegation that Israel contests - the Foreign Ministry Legal Division is apparently seeking to regain the political offensive. It issued a paper to its almost 100 diplomatic missions abroad alleging that the Palestinian Authority has systematically violated the "Note for the Record" which was attached to the Hebron accord in January.

The "Note for the Record" has been a centerpiece of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's insistence that he has attained "reciprocity" from the Palestinians.

The Foreign Ministry paper states, "for its part, the Palestinian Council undertook to complete the process of revising the Palestinian Charter, to take strengthened measures to fight terrorism and prevent violence - including the transfer of suspects, confiscation of illegal firearms, and reduction of the size of the Palestinian police

to that permitted in the Interim Agreement, and to conduct Palestinian Council activity in the areas of Palestinian jurisdiction - and not in Jerusalem.

In respect of every one of these commitments, the Palestinian side has failed to demonstrate its intention or will to comply with its undertakings."

At the same time, the paper insists, "Israel undertook to implement the first phase of the further redeployment process, to release women prisoners who had not yet been released, and to reopen negotiations on a range of issues including safe passage, Dahaniya Airport, Gaza Port, etc. Israel has complied with its undertakings in all these aspects."

The Palestinians have complained that none of those issues under negotiation have been resolved, with the exception of clearance for PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's aircraft to land from Dahaniya, something which does not appear in the Note for the Record.

Below are some of the main allegations made in the 15-point

paper: "Recent months have seen a marked decline in the extent of Palestinian activity directed against terrorists. Not only has the Council ceased to arrest individuals suspected of terrorist activity... but it has continued to release members of terrorist groups, many of whom have been actively involved in the organization and perpetration of acts of terror."

"Israel has to date submitted 19 transfer requests (relating to 23 individuals) to the Palestinian side and none have been complied with."

"Over the last year, over 20 Hamas fighters involved in terrorist activity were recruited into the Palestinian forces."

"The Hebron Protocol permits a maximum of 400 policemen, some 1,500 Palestinian police are operating, many of them armed with rifles which both in type and quantity violate the provisions of the Hebron Protocol."

"The PA has 'only' confiscated a token number of arms from among the tens of thousands of illegal weapons in the areas under its authority."



Bat Shalom and Peace Now supporters protest the Har Homa construction at the site yesterday.

(Byran McBurney)

US concerned over violence

By HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright yesterday urged Israel and the Palestinian Authority to resume negotiations, saying violence is no answer to the dispute.

"We are obviously very concerned about the fact that violence is never an answer to the problems in the Middle East, and we would very much want to see a return to the table," she told reporters, at a White House briefing in advance of this week's Helsinki summit between President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

"That is the only time that there has been progress in the Middle East, when the parties are actually talking to each other at the table. And that is the way we would like to see things proceed."

Albright added that "the Israelis understand the difficulties that we see with their going forward" on Har Homa, but refused to comment directly on the project.

Asked about reports that PA Chairman Yasser

Arafat has given Hamas the go-ahead to conduct terrorist attacks, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said US officials "don't believe it to be true. And we will certainly expect that Chairman Arafat keeps his commitment to Israel and to the US that there will be no violence. We also expect that extremists on the Israeli side will not provoke violence or resort to violence themselves."

Condemnation of the start of construction at Har Homa came from throughout the international community yesterday.

"The start of construction at Har Homa outside Jerusalem can do nothing but harm the peace process," British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said in a statement. "Like all settlements, this one will be illegal, and it goes against the spirit of the Oslo agreement. I am disappointed that the Israeli government [has] taken this decision against the strong advice of their friends in the international community."

"I urge the Palestinian leadership to continue to do everything possible to avoid current tensions leading to violence," he added.

French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette called the construction "an obstacle to peace" and warned against a resurgence of violence.

"I hope that violence will not start again in this part of the Middle East and I can only suggest to both sides to do all they can to avoid it," he said.

"France feels that the decision taken by the Israel government goes against the spirit and the letter of the Oslo Accords, as well as other accords between Israelis and Palestinians."

Jordan urged Israel to reverse its decision. "We regard settlements as contradictory to international law and agreements signed between the Palestinians and Israel, as well as between Jordan and Israel," Information Minister Marwan Muasher told a press conference, following a cabinet meeting.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan expressed "disappointment and deep concern." "He calls on the parties to do their utmost to find mutually acceptable solutions and proceed with the peace negotiations," a statement issued through a UN spokesman said.

COMMENT

Expect the unexpected

By HERB KEINON

The country, so it seems, loves to live with the feeling that all hell will break loose at any minute.

Not a completely unfounded sentiment, given that all hell does break loose here quite often. But it seems to happen when we least expect it, not when our eyes, and the eyes of the entire world, are focused on the possibility.

Just three months ago the country - nay, the whole world - was preoccupied with Hebron. There were apocalyptic prognoses of what would happen when the IDF redeployed. The media was there en masse to capture live any stone thrown, any poster waved, any body thrown in front of a retreating IDF jeep. Every move in Hebron was analyzed, re-analyzed, and then re-analyzed again.

The question that dogged us day and night was when the redeployment would take place, and what would happen when it did. Reporters filed stories about

"another uneventful day in Hebron." The uneventful, because of our expectations, became the event.

Our eyes were glued on Hebron because we thought that, once the redeployment took place, trouble would soon follow. It didn't. Which is not to say it won't, only that it won't when we most expect it.

That Hebron did not provide the drama we expected was really not important, since another crisis was bound to pop up for this crisis-addicted country. And it has - Har Homa.

Never, it seems, has so much attention been paid to a few guys going up a hill to take some measurements as has been paid over the last few days to the surveyors set to go to Har Homa. It is hard to imagine that surveying has ever received such attention, with radio news programs interviewing the surveyors to find out exactly what it is they do, and newspapers interviewing bulldozer drivers to find

out how they feel waiting "on the brink."

Faisal Husseini says the atmosphere smells now the way it did before the intifada. I submit that it smells now the way it did before the Hebron redeployment.

Good things, the saying goes, happen when you least expect them; they sneak up on you. As do bad things. The Western Wall Tunnel riots in September hit most of the country like a thunderclap, as did the helicopter disaster at She'ar Yashuv and the Naharayim massacre. Crisis and disaster generally come from the blind side - difficult to prepare for, impossible to get the good camera angle on.

Which is not to say that there will not be any trouble over Har Homa. There very well may be. Just as there still may be trouble in Hebron. But it is unlikely to happen when, where, and how we expect it. Not everything accommodates the cameras, or our thirst for drama.

First homes may be ready by end of '99

By HERB KEINON and URIEL HELLMAN

The first homes on Har Homa may be ready for occupancy as early as the end of 1999, Housing Ministry spokesman Moshe Eilat said yesterday.

He said the surveying that began yesterday, intended to chart out roads and sewage lines, could be finished within two weeks. "It all depends on how fast the work is carried out, and how many people are involved," he said.

The first pre-building stage began with the arrival of a team of surveyors, who began to place markers in preparation for the beginning of bulldozing work.

In an interview with Israel Radio, surveyor Avi Goldreich estimated that the surveying would probably take three or four days. He said the surveyors were not bothered by the onlookers.

The surveying process is accomplished in two stages. The first step consists of making a topographical map of the land. Using aerial and close-up photography, planners map the topography onto a computer before planning the infrastructure for the neighborhood. Once completed, surveyors then go to the site and mark the

area according to the map, the stage that began yesterday.

Using stakes and other markers, surveyors determined the locations of the bypass road (being built for security reasons), the inner streets, and the sewage system, and marked places where soil needs to be removed or added.

"It looks like a nice, quiet area," said Goldreich.

After the surveying is completed, work will begin on building the infrastructure. This includes laying electric cables and water pipes, and basic roadwork. Again, depending on the number of workers, this could be completed in two months.

The next stage is issuing tenders for building contractors. Eilat said it is not yet clear how many contractors will be involved in the project.

"Then the actual building can begin," Eilat.

Eilat said it is difficult to predict the time of completion because it depends on how many people are working and at what speed. But, he said, the first homes could be ready within 30 months.

The first stage calls for the construction of some 2,400 homes, with another 4,000 to be built in the following stage.

IDF closes Joseph's Tomb

Fearing an eruption of violence as bulldozers started work on Har Homa yesterday, the IDF ordered the closure of Joseph's Tomb in Nablus yesterday, demanding that students from the Od Yosef Chai yeshiva and all worshippers and visitors leave the site.

A spokesman for the IDF Central Command said the site would remain closed until further notice. Yeshiva director Eli Rosenfeld said that although the start of work on Har Homa is welcome, he is demanding that the government and security forces secure the area. "It is much more preferable to have Jews inside the compound than outside," he said.

Six soldiers were killed at Joseph's Tomb when fighting broke out after the Western Wall Tunnel exit was opened last September, and much of the yeshiva was burned by rioters. Margot Dudkevich

SPECTACLE

Continued from Page 1

through the Talpiti neighborhood, where bystanders cheered upon hearing of their destination.

As the entourage snaked its way down the curving road to the intersection between Umm Tuba and Beit Sahur, dozens of cameras set up on tripods were preparing to greet it. Up the mountainside drove one bulldozer, and up followed the media. Off to the side, a steam shovel moved a few rocks with its jaws, and that, too, was recorded.

And so it went for two-and-a-half hours, until the equipment was parked at the top of the hill for the night. Left behind was a

long scar of brown earth between the patches of green grass and rock.

A kilometer away, on a facing hill known as Givat Hatayarin in Beit Sahur, sat Palestinian and Peace Now protesters.

There was nothing to see from where they sat, but their tent city - by now grown to six tents, from two Monday afternoon - was the focal point of the opposition to the construction.

Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini sat in one of the small tents, the words "Orient House" spray-painted on the outside in English and Arabic, giving interviews by the numbers, as wave after wave of journalists and camera crews squeezed in to get a quote or a sound bite.

Har Homa, Day One.

HANEGBI

Continued from Page 1

President Aharon Barak. Barak objected to the appointment.

Hanegbi's questioning yesterday, which continued until late last night, is supposed to wrap up the complicated probe.

Although police have regularly transferred evidence from those questioned about the affair to the state attorney, the investigating team, headed by National

Investigations Chief Cmdr. Sando Mazar and Dep. Cmdr. Ya'acov Grossman, is expected to consolidate all material collected from the more than 35 people questioned, and meet with State Attorney Edna Arbel tomorrow with recommendations on whether to indict anyone.

Liav Collins adds: Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday he "does not expect the earth to shake" following the end of the Bar-On Affair investigation.

CORRECTION

A Page 2 headline yesterday should have read "US: Hamas believes PA will permit terror if Har Homa goes ahead" and not as written.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Dr. Yacov Baumgold will speak on "Violence in the family."

Knesset splits down party lines

By LIAT COLLINS

Hadash yesterday filed a no-confidence motion over Har Homa.

"The government is inviting a particularly dangerous escalation," faction chairman Salah Salim said. "It seems it's prepared to sacrifice the political process on the altar of illogical and stubborn nationalism."

Earlier in the day, Hadash MKs Tamar Gozansky and Ahmed Sa'ad were removed from Har Homa by security forces, after they tried to bodily block the bulldozers.

Other political responses to the start of construction were predictable, with the Left warning of violence and the end of the peace process and the Right praising the decision to stress Israel's sovereignty over its capital.

Labor faction chairman Ra'anah Cohen said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has promised the Palestinians strategic concessions and made far-reaching promises to ensure quiet. He demanded the premier reveal any deals made.

National Religious Party faction chairman Hanan Porat said he expects the Har Homa work to continue at a fast pace. He called on Netanyahu to warn Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat that any outbreak of violence will cause the Palestinians to lose all they have gained under the Oslo Accords.

MKs from the Democratic Arab Party visited President Ezer Weizman in Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, to call on him to ask Netanyahu to stop the project.

Ran Cohen (Meretz) called the construction "a crime against peace and a crime against Jerusalem." He said that Netanyahu's ruling out a joint Arab-Jewish neighborhood at the site could bring about "a disaster that only a miracle could avert." Ofir Pines (Labor), joint head of

the Knesset caucus for Jerusalem, called on Netanyahu to postpone the project until a better atmosphere prevails.

Ruby Rivlin (Likud), co-head of the caucus, said that "only when our partners realize there are red lines can we hold a true dialogue with them. We can't have a dialogue under threats. This is a test

not only concerning Jerusalem but concerning our entire relation with the Arabs."

David Rudge adds: Israeli Arab leaders denounced the start of construction. They reiterated concern that it might lead to an eruption of violence and a further deterioration in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

W.U.P.J.
expresses condolences to
Ayala
and the family of
SHNEUR ZALMAN
ABRAMOV
courageous leader for justice,
civil liberties and pluralism
זכר צדיק לברכה

Austin Bretel President
Rabbi Richard Hirsch Executive Director

HANEGBI
Continued from Page 1

President Aharon Barak. Barak objected to the appointment. Hanegbi's questioning yesterday, which continued until late last night, is supposed to wrap up the complicated probe. Although police have regularly transferred evidence from those questioned about the affair to the state attorney, the investigating team, headed by National

CORRECTION
A Page 2 headline yesterday should have read "US: Hamas believes PA will permit terror if Har Homa goes ahead" and not as written.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL
THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Dr. Yacov Baumgold will speak on "Violence in the family."

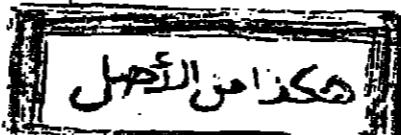
CommStock Trading Ltd.
THE COMMSTOCK FAMILY
WISHES A HEARTY MAZAL TOV TO
DOUGLAS AND BATSHEVA
GOLDSTEIN
ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR NEWEST DIVIDEND - A SON!
MAY HE BE THE SOURCE OF MANY HEALTHY AND HAPPY RETURNS.

Andre Antwood
Devorah Bergman
Dan Berkowitz
Toby Bick
Eli Cohen
Danny Gavrieli
Nechama Gilbert
Santiago Glickberg
Zahava Iluk
Janice Kandil

Aaron Katzman
Nomi Kellerman
Ben Rose
Shlomit Rosenthal
Jay Tuch
Yossi Weiss
Revital Yacoby
Michael Zwebner
David Zwebner

Yosi PEKING
Glatt Kosher Chinese Restaurants
Enjoy our delivery service

Jerusalem 02-625-0817
Tel Aviv 03-544-4486
Ashdod 08-855-3411
Office: Tel. 03-546-8264, Fax. 03-544-4765
Listen to Arutz 7, 711 and 1143 AM, 105 FM



School principal testifies: Naharayim wasn't on itinerary

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Naharayim was not on the original itinerary of the eighth-grade school trip that ended last week in the murder of seven Beit Shemesh pupils by a Jordanian soldier, AMIT Puerst School principal Moshe Yablovich admitted yesterday to the Pressler Committee investigating the incident.

of hearings.

However, later in the day, Yablovich said the permit the school received for the trip included permission to visit Naharayim and that he has seven different Education Ministry documents encouraging trips to Naharayim as part of the events marking 100 years of Zionism.

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled also appeared before the committee. Peled said he told the commission about "how the system works, and how if people



Shlomo Zudkevich, the ministry official responsible for security and safety on school trips, (with back to camera) gives testimony to the committee headed by Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yigal Pressler (second from right).

work according to the regulations, such things don't happen." "Someone took responsibility on himself" to take the group to Naharayim, he said.

Shlomo Zudkevich, the ministry official responsible for security

and safety on school trips, also testified.

Committee chairman Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yigal Pressler told Israel Radio yesterday that "our investigation will focus on the planning, organization and carrying out of

the trip, taking into consideration the Education Ministry's guidelines and regulations regarding safety and security." He said he expects the investigation to last two or three weeks.

Children's park to be Naharayim memorial

By DAVID RUDGE

A children's park is to be established at Naharayim in memory of the seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls who were shot to death by a Jordanian soldier while on a sight-seeing trip last week.

The decision was taken yesterday by a Jordanian-Israeli committee that was set up after the massacre.

Gen. Abu Rashed Mansour, the head of the Jordanian delegation, expressed deep sorrow over the incident on behalf of himself, the Jordanian army, and King Hussein.

It was agreed that the park be jointly designed by two architects from Israel and Jordan, in consultation with the mayor of Beit Shemesh and the bereaved families.

The idea of a park at Naharayim was originally approved in the framework of the peace talks between Israel and Jordan. The tragedy at Naharayim last week has given the project a new impetus and efforts are now being made to find funding.

Gita Sherover has already pledged \$100,000 towards the project.



No justice, no peace

Women hold a protest vigil in front of a Tel Aviv courthouse yesterday, part of a national campaign organized by the Na'amat women's organization at courthouses across the country. The organization is demanding an increase in the minimum sentences for sexual and family violence crimes.

Hebron residents protest against road closing

By MARGOT DUDKOVITZ

Protesting the closure of the road leading to their enclave, residents of Tel Rumeida in Hebron refused to send their children to school and demonstrated at the site yesterday, leaving "stalled" cars in front of bulldozers in an attempt to stop the road work.

At mid-morning, the IDF declared the road a closed military zone and demanded that the settlers leave immediately, warning that those who refused would be arrested. Police arrived to enforce the orders.

Women and children holding Israeli flags then proceeded to

walk towards the Avraham Avinu quarter via a road running through H1 - the Palestinian-controlled area - and were stoned. According to Tel Rumeida resident Baruch Marzel, the IDF then declared that road a closed military zone, allowing only vehicles to travel on it.

Marzel said that residents in the area had been told that the road would be closed for a few hours daily but that it had been closed for eight hours.

Tel Rumeida residents, said Marzel, will not send their children to school on the road that passes through H1, despite assurances that the road closing

had been coordinated between the Palestinian Authority and the IDF. Marzel said that Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled had told him he was opposed to children traveling through H1.

"We opened up classes in Tel Rumeida for the children," said Marzel, who added that the community would probably keep 40 children home again today.

On Monday night, the Hebron community leaders were informed by the civil administration district liaison commander Col. Baruch Magar of plans to repair the road leading to Tel Rumeida.

Salberg likely pick to head Presidents Conference

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - Attorney Melvin Salberg was expected to be named chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations late yesterday, sources said. Salberg, who also was installed as president of the American Zionist Movement on Monday, would succeed Leon Levy.

Ronald Lauder, the businessman-philanthropist who is the new president of the Jewish National Fund, had been widely seen as the favorite to head the Presidents' Conference. But Lauder is close to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which made some in the Jewish community uneasy, believing that Lauder was too closely associated with the Right to be able to reflect a consensus of the Jewish community.

Once the pre-eminent organization in American Jewish life, the Presidents' Conference had been all but marginalized during the Rabin-Peres years.

In its 40 years, the conference has often served as a go-between when relations between Jerusalem and Washington were strained.

NEOT HAKIKAR TOURING Co.

JORDAN
Petra 2 days with flights from Tel Aviv and back, every Wednesday and Friday from - 19.2.97 - 30.3.97 !!

Special price:
Wednesday : 3 stars from \$ 269
Friday : 3 stars from \$ 299

03-5205858, 03-5221020

**Important Announcement
to all EL AL Passengers
departing on the night between
March 20 and March 21.
(From midnight until 3.30 a.m.)**

With the commencement of daylight saving time in Israel at midnight on Thursday, March 20, EL AL passengers are kindly requested to arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport at least 3 1/2 hours before scheduled flight departure time.

Thank you for your cooperation and have a good flight.

EL AL

Northwestern University and **Tel Aviv University**
J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management and Faculty of Management
The Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration

Invite qualified managers to an information session about the Executive MBA program which **Business Week** has ranked first in the USA.

International Executive MBA

The Information session will be held on Thursday, March 27, 1997 at 5:00pm at the Graduate School of Business Administration The Recanati Building, Tel Aviv University

In the meeting, potential candidates interested in applying for KRO2, the next class - which will open in October 1997 - will be able to meet with the faculty of Kellogg / Recanati, with Associate Dean Edmund J. Wilson of Kellogg, and with the participants of KRO1 - the first class in the program which is in the midst of its first year of studies.

This International Executive MBA program closely follows Kellogg's EMBA structure and awards a joint MBA degree by Northwestern University and Tel Aviv University. It is intended for selected experienced managers with undergraduate degree who are determined to receive the finest graduate business education while continuing their work engagement.

For further information and confirmation of your participation at the meeting please call: 03-640-9955, fax: 03-640-7803 or e-mail: ornat@post.tau.ac.il.

IR
KelloggRecanati
http://www.tau.ac.il/gsba

NEWS

in brief

Kahalani wants A-G's report on PA closures

The Knesset Law Committee is to meet to discuss complaints by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani that he has not yet received the written opinion of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein on the closure of Palestinian Authority offices in Jerusalem. Rubinstein told reporters Sunday that he had informed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Kahalani orally at the end of last week of the various legal options. MK Moshe Shahal (Labor), who requested the committee meeting, criticized Netanyahu for not keeping the Internal Security Ministry in the picture, saying that he had received Rubinstein's legal opinion several days ago. *Basheva Tsur*

Three dead from heater emissions

The bodies of a man and woman who apparently died from toxic gas while sleeping, were found yesterday afternoon in their apartment in Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood. Police and Magen David Adom medics who arrived at the scene, first assumed it was suicide. However, signs in the room indicated that poisonous carbon monoxide had leaked from the heater and had been inhaled. The couple, both aged about 50, were taken to the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Abu Kabir to determine the cause of death. A seven-year-old girl also died in Jerusalem yesterday under similar circumstances. *Itim*

Hochberg remand extended

The Rehovot Magistrate's Court yesterday remanded suspected murderer Dr. Amiram Hochberg, 50, for 13 more days. Police said they requested that the remand be extended because Hochberg has refused to cooperate with investigators and had not yet made a statement. He is suspected of murdering his common-law wife, Shlomit Bleichman, and her mother, Ida, last May. *Itim*

Soldiers punished for hitting children

An IDF soldier was sentenced to 21 days of restricted duties and removed from his post, while another soldier was confined to his base for 21 days, for hitting Palestinian children. Two Palestinian youths approached the police in Hebron on Sunday afternoon to report the act, committed by soldiers serving in the area. The subsequent IDF investigation found that one of the soldiers slapped one of the youths and the second soldier pushed the other, after the youths had insulted the soldiers. *Itim*

Beautiful Hospital Competition to start in May

The Health Ministry is encouraging all hospitals to compete in the Beautiful Hospital Competition, organized this year for the second time by the Council for a Beautiful Israel. The competition will begin in May, and the winners will be announced in December. *Judy Siegel*

Doctor: Many c-sections were unnecessary

The number of cesarean sections can be cut nearly in half without endangering mothers or their babies, according to Dr. Haim Yaffe, director of obstetrics at Jerusalem's Bikur Holim Hospital. In recent years, cesareans constituted as many as 15% of all deliveries in the country, even though many of them are not required for medical reasons, he said. *Judy Siegel*

NEWS

in brief

Rabbinate: Civil divorces not acceptable

Women immigrants who went through civil divorce proceedings in their countries of origin are being required to undergo a second, religious divorce by rabbinical courts here, the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee was told yesterday. Committee member MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) said that some 30,000 single-parent families headed by women had immigrated here in the past seven years, and that "some of the women will remain agunot if they are unable to locate their husbands to go through a second divorce according to Halacha." Chazan suggested that Israel's representations in the CIS include rabbinic representatives who would explain the situation to women before they immigrate. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

MDA sanctions reduce hospitals' blood supply

The supply of blood to hospitals was reduced drastically yesterday, as Magen David Adom workers applied sanctions over the organization's non-payment of a special allotment given to hospital lab workers and biochemists. Only 150 units of blood and blood components were transferred to the hospitals, instead of the 1,400 units on an average day. In addition, during the day shift, ambulances are not going out on call unless there is an accompanying medic along with the driver. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, who is abroad, has asked the Treasury to respond to the demands by tomorrow. *Judy Siegel*

Police crack down on pirate radio

The police have agreed to "act immediately" against all pirate radio stations, especially those that interfere with air traffic control. In addition, in a meeting with Communications Minister Limor Livnat, all relevant ministries agree to act quickly to legislate stricter laws deterring pirates. The government will look into the possibility of refusing to recognize the expenses, for tax purposes, of those that advertise on pirate stations. The Communications Ministry's unit for catching pirate stations will be boosted in manpower and funds, it was announced yesterday. *Judy Siegel*

Religious-secular rift troubles education official

The increasing polarization between secular and observant Israelis is the most worrisome source of tension today, even more than matters of state, Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell said yesterday. Dell, speaking to a gathering of principals on education towards values, said the gap between religious and secular has replaced that which existed previously between ethnic groups, which has narrowed in recent years. In light of the worsening relations between the secular and observant, Dell said educators must not give up, or feel the situation is hopeless. *Aryeh Dean Cohen*

Post office registration ends phony car sales

Sales of used cars by people who don't own them has been eliminated by the on-line registration of vehicles at post offices, some of them located on the premises of vehicle licensing and testing institutes, Postal Authority director-general Moshe Tery said yesterday. He said that last year, 340,000 vehicles changed hands via post office registration. Previously, a lien was attached to cars bought by honest residents who had not made sure that the seller really owned the vehicle. Also in the past, many people received traffic and parking tickets for offenses committed by the person who had previously owned the car. *Judy Siegel*

MKs undergo glaucoma tests

Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital yesterday sent ophthalmologists to the Knesset to conduct a painless eye-pressure test on all who requested it. Some 200 MKs and Knesset staffers underwent checks, and a number were referred for further tests and treatment for glaucoma. A mobile unit, donated to the hospital by US philanthropist Sam Rothberg, recently began making the rounds of factories, schools, and other institutions for the early detection of glaucoma. The disease causes the sufferer gradually to lose his field of vision due to pressure by fluid located between the cornea and the lens. There are no symptoms until it's too late. Pressure can be reduced by the regular use of special eye drops. *Judy Siegel*

Pharmacists to battle smoking

The Israel Pharmacists Association is launching a campaign to encourage people to quit smoking and will try to persuade the print media to stop accepting cigarette advertising. IPA chairman Howard Reiss said it will support the efforts of European pharmacist organizations that have signed a commitment against smoking. The local campaign will begin this spring in community pharmacies. Pharmacists will bar smoking in their establishment and advise smokers on ways of kicking the habit. *Judy Siegel*

Book: PLO dialogue began in '85

By ELDAD BECK

PARIS - Negotiations between Israel and the PLO started in the mid-1980s and were initiated by the General Security Service, according to a book that will be published in France today.

According to *Peace or Wars: Secret Arab-Israeli Negotiations Between 1917 and 1997*, written by Charles Enderlin, the Israel-based correspondent of French TV channel France-2, during these negotiations PLO chairman Yasser Arafat had already accepted the idea of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and autonomy in this region.

Enderlin, who based his book on exclusive documents and interviews of numer-

ous political leaders in the Middle East, reveals that in July 1984, few days before the elections to the 10th Knesset, GSS chief Avraham Shalom and his deputy Reuven Hazak decided to put prime minister Yitzhak Shamir in a situation in which he could not refuse to establish secret contacts with the PLO.

To convince Shamir, Shalom and Hazak told him that the contacts would concern missing Israeli soldiers. Shamir agreed to entrust the mission to the GSS and a Canadian middleman, Steve Cohen, who had held talks with the PLO since the early '70s.

The first contacts between Yossi Ginosar, then the GSS representative in the US, and

Said Kamal, a member of the Fatah took place in New York in July 1985. A small ministerial committee, headed by prime minister Shimon Peres and defense minister Yitzhak Rabin, guided the contacts. Shamir, the foreign minister, was not a member of the committee, but was informed about the details of the contacts, and never opposed them, even when he was told that they dealt with an eventual political solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

The Israeli attack on PLO headquarters in Tunis, the *Achille Lauro* affair, and the Bus 300 affair delayed the continuation of the contacts and the start of the negotiations until February '86, when the first secret negotiations took place in Paris.

Participating were Shlomo Gazit, former head of the IDF intelligence, Ginosar, Hani Hassan, Arafat's top political adviser, Kamal, and Cohen. Other meetings followed in Paris and Brussels.

The last meeting took place in Paris on April 3, 1986 without achieving real progress. The resignation of Shalom and Ginosar following their implication in the Bus 300 scandal put an end to the secret talks, since the new GSS head, Yosef Hermelin, decided that it was not the job of his service to deal with such political negotiations. He asked Peres' authorization to stop contacts with the PLO. Peres refused, but Shamir who replaced Peres as PM few weeks later immediately agreed.

Spy's letters to MKs raise ire of Justice Ministry

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Justice Ministry is examining the possibility of amending the Prisons Law so that it will be possible to censor letters containing classified information that prisoners send to MKs, the ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

She was commenting on a report in *Yedioth Aharanot* that convicted spy Mordechai Vanunu had written hundreds of letters containing classified information.

The censor stopped most of them, but, since letters to MKs are not censored, those he reportedly wrote to Israeli-Arab MKs went through.

"The existing regulations allow the prison director to open inmates' letters for censorship purposes... and this has several times stood up in court," spokesperson Eti Eshed said yesterday. But, she said, it was being checked whether this also could be applied to letters sent to MKs and whether the law required amendment.

Vanunu is serving an 18-year sentence for providing the *Sunday Times* of London with pictures and documents allegedly proving Israel had nuclear weapons in Dimona.

The Supreme Court had banned publication of details about the case, but the routine censorship of his letters revealed that Vanunu was ignoring the court order. The information he had passed on to the Israeli-Arab MKs was "top secret," Eshed said.

Eshed said that the regulation was being examined also in connection with other cases. Recently, MK Azmi Bashara (Hadash) petitioned the High Court of Justice with regard to a group of 18 Lebanese prisoners who have been jailed for the past decade in Israel. The prisoners had sent Bashara a letter containing information said to be classified.



Of general interest

Lt.-Gen. (ret.) Ted Stroup (right), one of nine retired US generals and military commanders here with the Washington-based Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, chats with Maj.-Gen. (res.) Shlomo Gazit (center) and Maj.-Gen. (res.) Yossi Porat yesterday. The delegation is also spending two days on the Golan Heights to examine its strategic importance. (Ilan Orensky/Israel Sun)

C'ttee: Yom Ha'atzmaut costs out of line

By LIAT COLLINS

The cost of Yom Ha'atzmaut festivities are nothing to celebrate, according to the Knesset Interior Committee, which discussed the issue yesterday.

The committee decided to publish a list of municipalities which exceed their budget and invite Yom Ha'atzmaut performers for astronomical fees. The committee heard that some municipalities pay more than NIS 100,000 for a 30-minute performance.

It demanded that the Interior Ministry prepare clear guidelines on the subject, noting that this is particularly important this year because of the upcoming municipal elections.

Chairman Sallah Tarif (Labor) said the amounts paid out are particularly unacceptable given the large budget deficits many municipalities have. At the outset of the meeting,

there was an argument between the MKs and entertainers and their managers, who were invited to attend. The politicians threatened to establish a cartel to determine the rates paid performers. Micha Goldman (Labor) said many mayors try to attract big name stars, no matter the cost, to add to their own popularity.

Danny Shalem, representing the impresarios, said it is a free market and competition causes prices to rise. He said the entertainers rely on these performances.

Entertainer Menahem Zilberman said the complaints are unjustified: "Artists not only don't earn anything from television performances, they usually lose because of the expenses. Success is not an insurance policy - (the money) has to last over several years." He suggested preparing a tender for cultural events.

Panel discusses radioactive waste

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Science and Technology Committee yesterday held a discussion on the handling of radioactive waste and decided to tour the storage area of the Dimona Nuclear Research Center, where all radioactive waste is dealt with.

Dr. Ephraim Eskolai, a senior safety adviser for the Atomic Energy Commission, told the committee that radioactive waste is dealt with in a professional manner, according to strict international standards. He said, however, that although there has never been an accident or leak here, he could not promise that there would never be an accident. He said the authorities are prepared to handle an accident.

Eskolai repeated statements by Environment Minister Rafael

Eitan that the ministry monitors the air, soil, and water for signs of radioactive pollution and has found nothing that could endanger the population.

The meeting was marked by an argument over the propriety of an open discussion of the issue. Uzi Landau, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, came to the science committee meeting especially to protest the subject being discussed there. He said the topic should be dealt with by his committee, which meets behind closed doors. But Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said the public must be allowed to hear what is going on.

Prof. Uzi Even, head of the chemistry department at Tel Aviv University, said the main problem is that methods of storage are only temporary and would have to be checked again in the future.

'Fish TV' helps researchers study Red Sea

By JUDY SIEGEL

An acoustic device developed in California called "Fish TV" - which simulates the activity of tiny sea animals called zooplankton - is being used for the first

time to explain the behavior of the aquatic population of the Gulf of Eilat and the Red Sea.

Preliminary findings from the use of the device, invented by engineer Dr. Jules Jaffe of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography

in San Diego, were presented at this week's second international Red Sea Conference in Eilat. The research, only half completed, is being carried out by Dr. Amatzia Genin of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Eilat's Inter-

University Marine Research Institute.

The event, which ends today, drew 120 marine biologists and other experts from Israel, Egypt, Germany, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

Genin became familiar with Jaffe's plans for developing an acoustic undersea device when he conducted research at Scripps. "I immediately recognized the benefit it could have to the study of zooplankton, which can be as small as one-millimeter long; the technique can also be applied to air traffic control, 3-D imaging of moving things, medicine and a number of other fields," he said.

Zooplankton are the most important link in the marine food chain. Knowing how they react under different ecological conditions is important in understand-

ing why some areas have a large amount of zooplankton while others have almost none, and how they affect the coral reef.

Jaffe's device is similar to an ultrasound scan performed on a fetus, except that it can cover a five-square-meter area simultaneously by inserting transducers into the water. These emit echoes - like a bat - at such high frequency that they don't disturb undersea life. Genin said. A computer then translates the data into a virtual image on a screen.

The researchers believe that the zooplankton off Eilat swim against the current, which pushes them down, but they battle to preserve their place in the water.

"We hope to work in Akaba, where we believe the winds force the tiny animals up rather than down," Genin said.

TWO DAYS ON THE GOLAN

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. We'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit Beit Gavriel on the Kinneret, Mitzpe Shalom (near Kfar Haruv), the yeshiva at Hispin, the wineries at Katzin, the Druse village of Ein Kinya, Emek Habacha, Gamla, and more. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the wolves of the Golan.

The date: Wednesday/Thursday, April 30/ May 1, 1997.

The price: NIS 595. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, lunch and dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch-box on the second.

Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible, by prior arrangement.

Reservations and further information:
SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074
 Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
 Ask for Michal, Vered, or Varda.

Pennies from Heaven

For forty-eight years, our leaders' pennies have brought heaven on earth to deprived kids throughout the country. From the early days when we collected toys at Hanukkah time to the present when **The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund** is an all-year ongoing way of helping children living in institutions and foster homes. We bring help to these needy kids with extra health care, shoes, toys, educational supplies, sports equipment and all those things that give them the kick-start in life expected by their peers. There's always a reason for giving to kids - holidays, birthdays, achievements and even for just being a kid.

So help us to help them.

Push your contributions today and as the rain brings out the flowers, help us bring a smile to a child's face.

The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000, Israel
Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 20 East 56th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022, U.S.A.

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

THE LOWY SCHOOL FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS

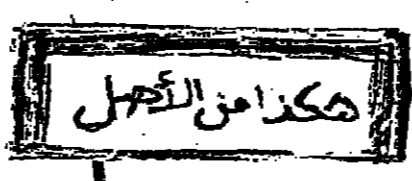
The First Australian Youth Forum

Lecture:
Dr. Robert Rockaway
 Dept. of Jewish History
 Tel Aviv University

"What the Lowy School for Overseas Students Can Do for Global Jewish Youth"

March 19, 1997, at 10:00 a.m.
 Room 203, the Dan David Building

The public is invited.



THE JERUSALEM POST

F. DAVID RADLER Chairman, Board of Directors
YEHUDA LEVY, President & Publisher

Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON

EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Romema, Jerusalem 91000
Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9277. CIRCULATION— 02-531-5610, Fax 02-538-9017. ADVERTISING— 02-531-5608,
02-531-5637-40 Fax 02-538-8408. TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamasger, POB 28398 (61283) Telephone 03-6390333, Fax 6390277.
HAIFA 20 Nordau, Hader Hacemal, Telephone 04-8623166, Published daily except Saturday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine
Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. © The Jerusalem Post 1997. Reproduction, or
storage in a retrieval system, or in any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1955 GERSHON AGRON, 1955-
1974 TED LURIE, 1974-1975 LEA BEN-DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS,
1992-1996 DAVID BAR-ILLAN
INTERNET EDITION: http://www.jpost.co.il General E-mail: jpost@jpost.co.il Editorial E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il
Subscriptions E-mail: subs@jpost.co.il

JEFF BARAK, Editor
CARL SCHRAG, Managing Editor
AMOTZ ASA-EL, Associate Editor, Business
DAVID BRINN, News Editor
ELIOT ZIMELMAN, Night Editor
LEORA EREN FRUCHT, Features Editor
THOMAS O'DWYER, Foreign Editor
JUDY MONTAGU, Op-Ed Editor

AVI GOLAN, Executive Vice President, Marketing & Advertising
PAUL STASZEWSKI, CPA, Vice President, Finance
YOSSI HORN, Vice President, Production
BENZION MILLER, Tel Aviv Office Manager

Shabbat in Ramat Aviv

While all eyes are on the Har Homa standoff, another conflict is heating up over whether a new mall in the Tel Aviv neighborhood of Ramat Aviv will be open on Shabbat. As usual, the involvement of politicians in the dispute is complicating, rather than diffusing, the conflict.

It all began when a religious businessman, Lev Leviev, bought a controlling interest in the Africa Israel, which owns the soon-to-be-completed Ramat Aviv mall. The mall, which will be one of the largest in the Tel Aviv area, was expected to be open on Shabbat, like many other malls in predominantly secular areas of the country.

The dozens of businesses that signed contracts with Africa Israel to open shop in the mall, including Israel Theaters and McDonald's, planned on the weekend shoppers to maximize their profits. But earlier this month, Leviev convinced the board of Africa Israel to change its plans and keep the mall closed on Shabbat.

The conflict quickly blossomed from a contract dispute between the mall and its tenants — still to be resolved — to a full-fledged test of wills between Israel's secular and religious camps. Am Hofshi ("A Free People"), a secular-rights group, is threatening to organize a consumer boycott of the mall if it stays closed on Shabbat. Backing this same aggressive line is Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, who declared that if "Bnei Brak" tries to impose its will on Ramat Aviv, Ramat Aviv would take the battle to Bnei Brak.

Milo threatened, in effect, that the secular citizens of Tel Aviv, outraged by the potential impairment of their right to shop on Shabbat, would drive through haredi Bnei Brak on the day of rest. For good measure, Deputy Mayor Dan Darin (Meretz), threatened to deny new building permits to Africa Israel if the mall is closed on Shabbat.

Predictably, Milo's threats were a major agenda item at Monday's meeting of the Agudat Yisrael Party. Party secretary Menahem Porush reportedly said at the conference that the haredi public would isolate Milo and destroy him politically. Aguda chairman Avraham Shapira called on the religious parties to emulate the tactics of the Land of Israel Front and pool their Knesset members into a "Force 23" that would defend the Shabbat with threats to bring down the government.

When the dust is cleared from all this political posturing, there is a question of who, if anyone,

is coercing whom. The tenants of the mall, who bought into the project thinking it would be open on Shabbat, would seem to have a legitimate beef with Africa Israel, since the rules were changed midstream.

But even if there is an unkosher element in what Africa Israel, at Leviev's insistence, has done to its tenants, the issue at hand is still primarily a contract dispute, not a matter of religion and state. This is not an example of the government imposing religious laws, but of a private company making a decision that, even if contrary to its financial interests, is within its rights.

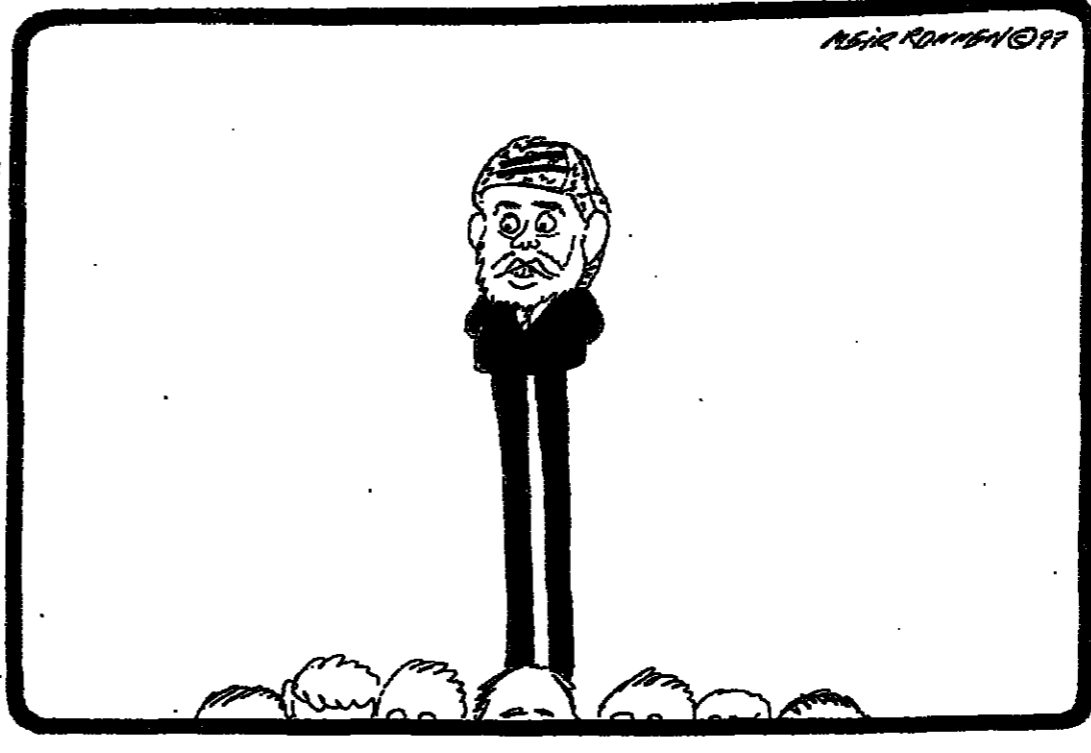
The political uproar has little to do with defending the tenants' rights. Rather, it is about whether the rights of secular people are being violated by depriving them of the services of a particular mall on Shabbat. Some commentators claim that the struggle is on an even loftier level, and involves whether the culture and lifestyle of secular residents will be treated with respect equal to that accorded religious ones.

The attempt to impose symmetry is, in this case, mistaken. It is one thing to claim that secular people have the right to live their lives free of religious coercion; quite another to claim that closing a business on Shabbat is as offensive to a secular person as keeping one open is to the religiously observant. It might not make either extreme happy, but most Israelis probably prefer a situation in which businesses are not forced to be either closed or open on Shabbat, and that there is a mixture of the two.

Even in famously secular Ramat Aviv, the neighborhood council is divided on this issue. Some members of the council wanted the mall closed on Shabbat to preserve the quality of life in an area known as "Green Ramat Aviv." Even many people who shop on Shabbat would probably regret it if there were no lessening in the commercial hubbub on Shabbat.

If anything, this supposed example of religious coercion might better be seen as a test of religious freedom: Do business owners have the right to manage their property in a manner consistent with their religious values, or will they be compelled by the Jewish state to violate Shabbat?

With the growing political muscle of religious parties beginning to be felt, the concern of increased religious coercion is a valid one. The flap concerning the Ramat Aviv mall, however, is a case of secular politicians choosing crass extremism over common sense, and threatening the same kind of coercion they claim to oppose.



It takes two to reconcile

Even if King Hussein's initiative results in a meeting between Binyamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, it is clear that the common ground between the two leaders — the Oslo agreement — is no longer there.

The agreement's explicit provisions are no longer to Arafat's taste, so he has abandoned them. In their place, he is trying to substitute something vague, ambiguous, and hard to define called the "Oslo spirit" via which he can introduce new demands at will. It took great effort on Netanyahu's part to bolster the Knesset majority in favor of implementing the agreement and Hebron was outstanding proof that he was doing just that. But when he turned around and looked for Arafat, he found that the chairman had departed, trailing the aura of the "Oslo spirit."

Arafat's repudiation of Oslo per se comes across in almost everything he says. For example, he frequently talks about "the diplomatic process," but hardly ever mentions the Oslo agreement — not surprisingly, since it puts limits on what he can demand.

He cannot, for instance, demand immediate operation of the Dehanyia airport. The agreement emphasizes Israel's unconditional right to suit security arrangements there to its needs, and Arafat can't interfere.

But that hasn't stopped him trying, for several weeks, to do away with this limitation, even though it stems from one of the agreement's most fundamental parts.

He cannot dictate the extent of any of the IDF's three withdrawals from Judea and Samaria. The agreement lays down only their timing, nothing else. Israel need not consult the Palestinians on how far, or from where, it will

MOSHE ZAK
withdraw. Again, the agreement recognizes Israel's security needs as the paramount consideration.

Arafat cannot interfere in construction in Jerusalem during the interim period. The agreement does not even mention the "danger of the Judaization of Jerusalem" that Arafat cites constantly as part of his efforts to drum up Islamic support for his anti-Israel campaign.

Israel agreed that problems

Arafat has jettisoned the Oslo accord for something vague yet wonderfully elastic called 'the Oslo spirit'

linked to Jerusalem could be raised in the final status negotiations; but the agreement says nothing about discussing the Palestinians' demand to share sovereignty over the city with Israel.

NOT one of Arafat's demands since Hebron has actually been based on the agreement. Conveniently, he invokes the "Oslo spirit" and "the spirit of reconciliation" while he insists on more Israeli concessions.

What doesn't seem to have occurred to the PLO leader is that it takes two to reconcile. He seems to believe that he can eternally twist Israeli prime ministers around his little finger, promising them over and over that the Palestinian Covenant will be amended — or has already been

amended — then tell his own public that he will amend the covenant only when Israel formulates a constitution. He knows quite well that there is no such thing on Israel's immediate agenda.

The Palestinians' demand vis-à-vis Jerusalem was known before the signing of the agreement, yet it says nothing about freezing construction in Jerusalem until the end of final status negotiations.

Israel's representatives would have rejected out of hand any Palestinian attempt to condition their signing on a clause preventing the "Judaization of Jerusalem." So why on earth should we agree to such a condition now, in the name of the "Oslo spirit"?

The Likud government opted to uphold a written agreement concluded by its predecessor, common practice with international agreements. Even so, there were objections to ratifying the agreement with the PLO — an organization, not a nation.

Whatever honoring agreements involves, it certainly does not include indulging the other side's fantasies — in this case, far-reaching gestures to dissipate Palestinian threats of violence.

These threats, made by many Palestinian leaders, only strengthen the conclusion that Arafat no longer sees himself as bound by the provisions of the Oslo agreement.

This being the case, what possible reason could Israel have for helping him legitimize some alternative "spirit" by which he can claim that building housing for Jews in Jerusalem constitutes a crime?

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Happy days

GUS CRENSON

The world will be a much better place to live in in about 1,000 days. By January 1, 2000, there will be no state or federal taxes of any kind. No crime. No jails. No professional athletes. No military. No lawyers. No guns. No poverty. No advertising.

And, oh yes — newspaper editors will be elected by readers. All these happy changes will have come to pass by the start of the new millennium, according to Edward Bellamy, author of *Looking Backward: 2000-1887*, published in 1888 by Houghton Mifflin.

The book sold more than 1 million copies, and was translated into four other languages. Its message resonated with Italian anarchists, Dutch socialists, Russian revolutionaries, English social critics.

This is the story of Julian West, an upper-class 1880s Bostonian who falls into a trance after he takes a mysterious sleeping potion. He sleeps for 113 years.

In Bellamy's new world, everyone works for the government. All get the same wage. Everyone has a credit card (he got that right!) on which his or her annual wage is entered. Each time something is bought, its cost is deducted from the card.

There is no money. You do all your buying in a government-run mall that keeps samples of everything you could possibly want. A system of pneumatic tubes moves everything along. The purchase usually is waiting by the time you get home.

The work day is four hours. Vacation is six months per year. Work is from age 21 to 45. The mentally and physically handicapped do what light work they can, but get paid the same as everybody else.

Bellamy's retirees in the year

Imagine: no taxes, no crime, no poverty, no advertising — and newspaper editors elected by readers

2000 live to "85 or 90" (a radical notion in 1887) and spend their retirement doing anything they please. He doesn't mention health care.

HOW did we come to this happy pass?

Well, says Bellamy, corporate giants at the end of the last century got bigger and bigger, gobbling up competition, and the rich got richer, until there was only one giant conglomerate — and the government took it over because the people demanded it.

And now, he says, we "enjoy the blessings of a social order at once so simple and logical that it seems but the triumph of common sense."

In Bellamy's world, housework is history. People eat in community dining rooms. It's cheaper, and the food is better than anything Mom could cook at home. All washing and ironing is outsourced.

Women's wages are the same as men's, but they work shorter hours and get rest stops, plus longer vacations. They are assigned only work they can handle. Maternity leave? Certainly.

In relations with men, women are free to declare their love first, (radical for 1888), though in the end, as one current critic observes, Bellamy created a world in which women reflected the 19th-century ideal: "pure, pious, domestic and submissive." Still, he was a hero to most 19th-century feminists. One women's rights leader pronounced his book "the book of the century."

You will look in vain in *Looking Backward* for the gimmicks and gadgets that are part of our baggage as we enter the new millennium. There are the pneumatic tubes. There is the adaptation of the telephone into a kind of radio. And on rainy days, a waterproof covering automatically turns the sidewalk into a "dry corridor." That's about it.

Looking Backward is, of course, a persuasive socialist tract, awakening Americans to the possibilities of change. It won converts to socialism by making it respectable, exciting and desirable.

On March 30, 1888, the *Boston Transcript* reviewed the book favorably, but couldn't swallow Bellamy's timetable. The reviewer thought the changes would take 75 centuries — not just one.

General interest in *Looking Backward* tailed off in the 1920s, but scholarly interest flourishes in scores of books and articles.

Critics are still dissecting Bellamy's ideas after 100 years and more.

(Baltimore Sun)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ONE-SIDED

Sir — The whole world is now vehemently condemning Israel, and no matter how many concessions it makes they are never sufficient.

Why is the Palestinian Authority, whose agreed upon police force of some 20,000 has now grown to an army of 85,000 trained, well-armed soldiers, not condemned for their actions? And why have no accusations been leveled against the PA for their actions in establishing "facts on the ground" by having illegal offices in Jerusalem, including Orient House?

Why does not Israel complain, constantly, to the United Nations, that the clauses calling for the destruction of Israel have not been finally deleted from the Palestinian charter? Why must all the "confidence-building measures" come only from Israel?

Why is "trust" one-sided? Will the world only discover that it has twisted Israel's arm too hard when that limb breaks, and it is no longer in a position to defend itself from antagonistic Middle East. Are we to know no peace?

NORMAN COHEN

Jerusalem.

WRONG TARGET

Sir — If there is any country in this world that likes to shoot itself in the foot, it is Israel. The harassment the Christians are subject to is a shame. The government should go after the ones that knock on people's doors giving out Christian literature.

This month we were disturbed three times by beautiful Russians knocking on our door. I take their literature only because it will be one less home they will disturb. Our government should put large advertisements in the Russian papers saying "It's against the law!"

EVELYN DAR-EL

Haifa.

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Sir — What's in a name? Everything. Much of the intensifying pressure and growing hostility between Israel and the Palestinian Authority is a result of a label. Har Homa viewed as part of "Jerusalem" symbolizes the concerns of the opposing sides and has enormous political/religious significance.

What would be the case if Har Homa, instead of being called "Jerusalem," was labeled "Sur Bahir 2," or a totally neutral title like "Rehovot" or "Boston" or "Los Angeles"? Facts on the ground, geographically/physically, would be expected to be the same, would they not?

The same need for housing, the same distance from this region to various offices located in or near the center of the city — but there would be a great cooling and calming down. Are we not shooting ourselves in the foot in having adopted a certain modern, greatly expanded map of Jerusalem as the ultimate defining source of what should carry this famous inflammable name?

I suggest that we consider concepts like "core Jerusalem," and "suburban Jerusalem." "Core Jerusalem" might be the Old City plus a few kilometers in the western and southern directions. This could well do a great deal to defuse the ongoing friction that is eroding hopes for a self-respecting peace.

RABBI JOSEPH HECKELMAN

Safad.

PLEAS FOR IBA NEWS

Sir — The 6:15 p.m. IBA English News on Channel 1 is our lifeline to events which affect our lives here in Israel. We never miss a broadcast and if we are not at home we videotape it. The presenters are like old friends, and their professionalism is appreciated. There are many English-speaking citizens who, like us, object to being dismissed as unimportant.

Please add our pleas to the many we feel sure you will hear from, on the threatened cancellation of IBA news.

DR. and MRS. R. KARAT

Herzliya Pituah.

KING'S GREATNESS

Sir — King Hussein's visit to the bereaved families shows his greatness as a leader and a human being. His genuine expression of sympathy which we saw on television doubtless left a deep and lasting impression on everybody in Israel. The Middle East would be a much more peaceful region had the other leaders in the area the courage and humanity of King Hussein.

To His Majesty King Hussein I would like to say *kol hakavod*. May we see the other Arab leaders around Israel give up their threatening posture and follow King Hussein's lead.

SHIMRYA SEGAL

Kiron.

DISTURBING SCENARIO

Sir — After having been cleared in his recent trial, David Appel is quoted as having said, "If Dudu Appel wants an appointment (to the government) to be made, you can be sure it will be done." He refers, of course, to the immense "cloud" he has with government leaders.

If this situation is true, it presents us with a very disturbing, if not frightening, scenario under which the people of Israel are being governed (if one can call it that). Perhaps, this time Dudu overreached himself? If true, it is indeed sad for all of us.

LEONARD ZURAKOV

Netanya.

TRAFFIC ON THE BEACH

Sir — Very often I spend time on the beach in Netanya playing with my grandchildren, ages five and eight. Frequently, cars drive to and fro on the sand.

Sometimes the children and toddlers nearby must run to get out of the way of the traffic. Do we have to wait until a child or a toddler is run over before law-enforcement from the Netanya administration prevents traffic on the beach?

HELEN GOLDMAN

Netanya.

Before calamity descends

Zero hour has arrived — for Jerusalem, for the future of the process with the Palestinians, for the path on which our nation continues in this country.

Because of this, every member of the government must stand up now and state publicly — so it's there in black and white for a future commission of inquiry — that he or she is ready to take responsibility for sending the first bulldozer up Har Homa to begin leveling the land.

Once that bulldozer goes up, once the government — rightly or wrongly — goes up the hill, the scenario that will follow, the sorry sequence of events, is clear. It is one of those cases where the end is visible right from the very beginning.

After the unavoidable eruption of violence, after the many, many dead on both sides are counted, after the fierce condemnation of Israel in the Security Council — with no American veto to save us this time — the prime minister will have to give in and go back to square one.

For despite the victory of the right-wing camp in the elections, Israel ultimately lacks the power to defeat the US when Washington sees a particular action as risky to its own interests.

So perhaps we'll stop sending them aid; perhaps we'll even

YORAM KANIUK

deploy our F15s to punish them — though it will be hard to find a refueling station along the way. And perhaps our shekels wouldn't make the Americans so happy, anyway.

YOU can't judge an issue like Har Homa by looking down on it from the ideological heights. Har Homa isn't really Jerusalem — and even if we dream that it is, surely we

Let every member of this government stand up and declare: We know what will happen, and we take responsibility

could wait until after the permanent settlement to try to realize our dream.

The justice of our stand on Har Homa is very shaky; that may be overstating it. More than that, it is far from wise.

After the punishment that is certain to come, we will feel the

brunt of the world's anger. And after our inevitable defeat, as we gaze at our empty national coffers, what will it matter that Prime Minister Netanyahu is angry at Mayor Olmert for hemming him in on the hill?

This government calls itself "national" (as opposed to the anti-national government of Yitzhak Rabin).

So let this national government arise, down to every last member, and declare publicly: We have made this decision collectively, in full knowledge of the tragedy that will follow.

Let it stand up before — and not after — the defeat, before the punishment, before the bloodshed.

Let no one be able to say, as they did with the tunnel last September: I didn't know. That sort of pretifying excuse, the shifting of responsibility onto others makes me think of H.L. Mencken, who observed that the fact that roses smell better than cauliflower doesn't necessarily make it a better soup.

The writer's latest book, *Another Love Story*, was published recently; his *Land of Two Promises*, written jointly with Arab novelist Emil Habibi, is currently being translated into several languages.

POSTSCRIPTS

AS THE wife of a wealthy Tampa lawyer, Rosalie Martinez had a privileged life. She wore diamonds and expensive watches and doted on her four children.

But she has given it all up in a quest to prove the innocence of a man she has grown to love — drifter, carnival worker and condemned serial killer Oscar Ray Bolin.

"I lost a lot over this," Martinez, 37, acknowledged. "But now, I'm happy. If I died in my sleep tonight, I would know the meaning of true, unconditional love."

Her husband of 18 years, a prominent criminal defense lawyer, has filed for divorce and sought custody of their children.

Her friends don't understand and

won't speak to her. And she quit her job with the public defender's office, the job that brought her to Bolin on Death Row early last year.

When Bolin's three murder convictions were overturned because of improper testimony, Martinez was supposed to help find details that might save him from the electric chair. Instead, she decided she could prove his innocence.

That job got tougher when a jury took only 30 minutes to convict Bolin of murder in the first of his three retrials — for the 1986 abduction, rape and stabbing of a bank clerk.

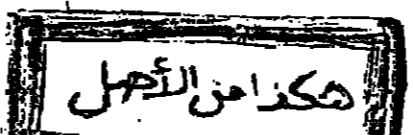
Bolin, 35, believes that he and Martinez will be together someday. "I would plan that. She's always going to be part of my life."

CAMELS, THE ships of the desert of Australia's pioneering past, have been fitted with tail lights in a sign of the times in the West Australian tourist town of Broome.

Two tourist camel ride operators have agreed to a town council request to attach red flashing battery-powered bicycle tail lights to the rear of camels to reduce the hazard they pose to traffic.

The camels move in strings of up to 15 with the last camel mounted with a tail light.

One operator said there was no pressure to introduce headlights. "I think the camels know where they're going," he said.



BUSINESS

in brief

Sharansky may hire American attaches

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is considering employing American citizens to act as commercial attaches in the U.S. During his current American tour, Sharansky told a meeting of Israeli attaches that he wants to see more representative offices opening throughout the US, and believes this can be done within the ministry's budget. *David Harris*

Discount, Uzbekistan open credit line

Israel Discount Bank has signed a credit line agreement with the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the first Israeli bank to sign an agreement of this kind.

The five-year agreement is for total export transactions of \$8m.

The credit line is intended to finance the establishment of turkey farms in Uzbekistan. MID, an Israeli company specializing in development of agricultural products, has an agreement with a government-owned Uzbek firm to establish the farms. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Bezeq gets loan at very favorable terms

Bezeq has received a \$150 million, seven-year loan at the interest rate of Libor plus 0.325% from an international consortium of banks, acting company director-general Avi Hochman disclosed yesterday. Libor stands for the London interbank offered rate.

The principal arrangers of the syndicate were the Swiss bank UBS, the German bank Dresdner and the Japanese bank Fuji. Since the loan was oversubscribed, Bezeq decided to raise a larger sum than was originally planned. The extra amount raised will partially offset future capital raising due to be carried out during this year.

The three arrangers and two co-arrangers (including Citibank) have not participated in previous syndications carried out for Bezeq. The telecommunications company was pleased by the long pay-back schedule (the ordinary period is five years) and the attractively low interest rate. *Judy Siegel*

EU shrugs off euro delay rumors

European Union finance ministers this week endorsed German and French preparations for joining the EU single currency, dismissing speculation that high German unemployment would force a delay.

The ministers backed French and German programs showing both countries are on target to get their deficit, debt and inflation down to levels required for nations adopting the single currency — the euro.

Ministers also agreed that a new EU body, proposed by France to help coordinate economic policy after the switch to the single currency, will not have decision-making powers. *AP*

Ford to test ultralight car

Ford Motor Co. said this week that by fall it plans to begin testing prototypes of an ultralight, high-mileage car. What Ford envisions is an aerodynamic family car that weighs just 900 kilograms, gets 26 kilometers per liter of diesel fuel and produces only minute amounts of pollution.

Ford and the other Big Three US automakers, General Motors Corp. and Chrysler Corp., are focusing much of their "supercar" research on so-called hybrid propulsion systems, which combine two or more power sources to achieve greater fuel efficiency and less pollution. *AP*

Livnat: 2 new cable channel tenders soon

By DAVID HARRIS

Tenders for two new cable television channels, one to be dedicated to Jewish subjects, the other to Russian-language programming, will be issued within the next few weeks, Communications Minister Limor Livnat told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

The process for establishing the Russian-language and Judaism stations will begin as soon as the proposed telecommunications bill becomes law, which could be within a month.

These two channels join an Arabic broadcast service, for which the tender has already been issued, even though many details await

the passage of the new law. Channel 2 executives strongly object to the fact that the new cable stations will be allowed to advertise, believing this will adversely affect Channel 2's revenues.

"They are representing a legitimate commercial interest," said Livnat. "But I am representing the public interest."

Two important sections of the bill were amended in the Knesset Economics committee yesterday to ensure the needs of the viewers will be met and to guarantee a percentage of the programs are Israeli-made.

The bill requires at least 50 percent of all programs on the Arabic and Russian stations be broadcast in the appropriate language (Arabic or Russian), but MK Avraham Poraz

(Shinui) said insisted that it be clear that the 50% include some or all of the prime-time schedule. This proposal was accepted, though certain details remain to be finalized.

The panel held a heated debate over the issue of domestic versus foreign production, because it is generally cheaper to import material to broadcast than to create original programs. However, MK Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) called for 20% of broadcasts to be produced locally.

"I want to encourage domestic production," said Cohen. "If you purchase everything from abroad you damage local production."

Other MKs, however, argued that 20% is an unattainable target and the committee settled for a 10% minimum.

Central bank: Don't raise minimum wage

By DAVID HARRIS

Raising the minimum wage will lead to increased unemployment and higher inflation, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel's new economic adviser, Ohad Bar-Efrat, charged yesterday.

Bar-Efrat's comments follow Monday's compromise understanding, between the Knesset social lobby and the Treasury, to increase the minimum wage from 45 percent of the monthly average wage to 47.5%, rather than the 50% the lobby initially demanded.

While others, led by Finance Minister Dan Meridor, have capitulated from their original opposition to any increase, MK Avraham Poraz (Meretz-Shinui) said he will stand firm and vote against raising the minimum wage in its second and third readings.

The central bank maintains that by increasing wages, employers will be less keen to take on staff in the lowest pay bracket, and consequently unemployment will rise in the sector which is in the greatest need of employment.

Furthermore, Bar-Efrat said, an increase in pay at this level is bound to have a chain reaction, whereby others also will demand salary increases. With the general rise in pay, there will be an inevitable general hike in prices, fueling troublesome, higher inflation rates.

The bank's alternative proposal is to reduce the size of the public sector, thus lowering the tax burden, which would lead to larger net wages. This can be achieved in part by ensuring the 1997 budget is adhered to, which means preventing the budget deficit from rising above the target 2.8% of the gross domestic product.

"Therefore structural changes are very important," Bar-Efrat said. "Those in privatization, liberalization and labor productivity."

Increasing labor costs will lead more employers to look to move their businesses to adjoining countries, following the lead of people such as Dov Lantman, who now produces some \$2 million of goods each month from his Delta textile factory in Egypt, Poraz said.

"If all these factories that can't pay more, because of competition from the third world, are forced to close, it just adds several thousand families to the wave of unemployment," Poraz added.

However, MK Amnon Rubinstein (Meretz), who originally opposed an increase, said he will support the compromise.

These industries that pay the minimum wage have no place in Israel, nor should we allow them a place," Rubinstein said. "When we have GNP of some \$17,000 per capita, there are industries we just don't want here, such as a part of the textile industry and primitive agriculture — neither Israelis nor Arabs want this."



Krupp capers

A trader on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange calls out a bid yesterday as share prices fall amid reports of a huge merger in the German steel sector. The European Commission had no comment yesterday on German industrial giant Krupp's planned takeover of rival Thyssen, but EU sources said the case would probably have to be examined under EU competition rules. *(Reuters)*

ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY BEN-GURION INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

NOTICE TO PASSENGERS AND THOSE PLANNING TO MEET PASSENGERS

With the move to summer time, at midnight tomorrow, Thursday, March 20, passengers traveling abroad are advised to contact their airline to verify the departure time of their flight.

DON'T BE LEFT OUT! If you don't have e-mail or even a computer you can still advertise!

INTERNET POST CLASSIFIEDS Reach all of Israel and the world for just:

- For Two weeks \$13 US Dollars/NIS 45
- One Month \$25 US Dollars/NIS 88
- Two Month \$45 US Dollars/NIS 158
- Three Months \$70 US Dollars/NIS 245
- Six Months \$130 US Dollars/NIS 456

List category and sub-category.

Message _____

Don't forget your contact address /phone /fax /e-mail in your message.

Fax this form: In US & Canada, 212-599-4743
In Israel & the rest of the world: 972-2-531-5622
or place your ad directly on our web site at <http://www.ipost.co.il>

Name _____

Address _____

Credit Card No. _____ Card type _____

Exp. date _____ Fax No. _____

Tel No. _____

e-mail address _____

NO TELEPHONE SUBMISSIONS

First Int'l seeks to buy small banks

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

First International Bank is exploring the possibility of purchasing smaller banks to be privatized, the bank's general manager, Shlomo Piotrkowski, said yesterday while presenting the annual results.

Net earnings for 1996 increased 10.2 percent to NIS 175.6 million, compared with NIS 159.3m. Net return on equity increased to 9.2% from 8.7%. First International is the first of the five largest commercial banks to publish its 1996 results.

The bank decided to distribute an annual dividend of NIS 100.7m, equivalent to 57.3% of net earnings for 1996. Fourth-quarter net profits increased to NIS 42.3m, compared with NIS 40.3m, in the corresponding period last year.

Piotrkowski said the bank has asked Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles if there will be any limitations on the bank regarding the pos-

sible acquisition of a smaller bank. Among the smaller banks scheduled to be sold as part of the privatization process are Mercantile Discount Bank and Otzar Hahayal.

"With regard to certain banks, approvals [to purchase the bank] will be given. The supervisor sees no reason to prevent this, but the opposite," Piotrkowski said.

First International also has applied to the Supervisor of Banks for permission to purchase shares for one of the bank's accounts and to establish a division to handle it, he said.

Commenting on the bank's recent establishment of the Alpha-Card credit card company in partnership with the Aurek group, which is engaged in the direct insurance field, Piotrkowski said the bank intends to enter the insurance field in the future but has not discussed entering the market with Aurek. Alpha-Card, which has received a franchise from Visa, is expected to

commence operations later this year.

The bank's 1996 earnings were primarily affected by a 9.7% increase in operating and other income to NIS 420.2m, compared with NIS 382.9m. The rise was due to a growth in commission-earning activity, achieved despite a 5% real erosion in commission fees and the recession in the capital market during most of 1996, Piotrkowski said.

Earnings from financing operations before provisions for doubtful debts grew 1.8% to NIS 739.5m, from NIS 726.6m. The provisions for doubtful debts fell 7.4%.

There was a 5% drop in operating and other expenses, to NIS 733.4m, compared with NIS 698.2m. Salary expenses rose 4.8% to NIS 457.8m.

Total assets reached NIS 32m, at the end of 1996, compared with NIS 19.3b, at the end of 1995. Credit to the public rose 16.2% to NIS 22.5b. In the reported period a significant increase was recorded in

foreign currency and foreign-currency linked credit reflecting customers' shift from unlinked shekel financing to foreign currency financing, a shift which could expose certain customers to linkage base risks, Piotrkowski said. Credit to the construction industry totaled NIS 3.9 billion, below the 20% maximum limit approved by the Bank of Israel.

In reaction to increased interest from international rating companies, the bank has prepared a financial report in dollar-adjusted terms as well as in inflation-adjusted terms. Dollar-adjusted net earnings for 1996 reached \$83m, compared with \$63m, in 1995.

Under the bank's profit-sharing scheme, in the next few days a total of NIS 15m, will be awarded to over 37 thousand customers as their share in earnings for 1996.

Yonas quits Africa Israel

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Eli Yonas, the director representing the South African shareholders in the Africa Israel holding company, submitted his resignation yesterday in connection with the controversy surrounding operation of the Ramat Aviv mall on Shabbat.

At a board of directors meeting yesterday, headed by controlling shareholder Lev Leviev, it was decided to instruct management and its legal advisers to submit a report on the various aspects of the agreements Africa Israel has with various renters in the mall, which is scheduled to open in the summer.

The board's decision to close the mall on Shabbat generated an outcry from the secular public, and protests from McDonald's and Israel Theaters, which both claim their contracts allow them to operate on Shabbat.

Six senior managers were appointed to the company yesterday as part of a reorganization

plan that will involve the establishment of six companies, each specializing in a different area. The new managers will serve under Africa Israel general manager Avigdor Kaplan.

The company appointed Zalman Stempier deputy manager in charge of business development; Haim Barkan, deputy manager of marketing; and Haim Leventhal, deputy manager of engineering and land development. Meir Nahshon was appointed general manager of Africa Israel — Management Holdings and Itamar Deitcher was appointed manager of the subsidiary Denia Cebus. Attorney Michael Belkani was appointed company secretary.

Since Leviev became the company's controlling shareholder in November, several senior managers have resigned, including Shimshon Harel, senior deputy general manager and No. 2 in the company, and deputy general manager Danny Miran, who served as general manager of

Denia Cebus.

Africa Israel completed 1996 with a net profit of NIS 74.9 million, compared with a net profit of NIS 114m, last year. Leviev stressed that those results represent the performance of the company under the ownership of Bank Leumi.

"A fax for you"

All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes.

15 minutes and you're gone.

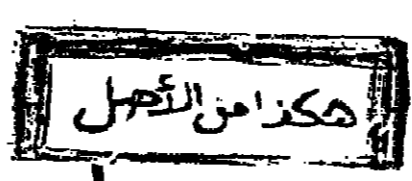
ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS			
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.575
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.7143	2.750	2.775
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.625	1.625	1.625
Yen (10 million yen)	0.825	0.750	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (18.3.97)					
CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6181	3.6785	3.27	3.44	3.8235
German mark	3.3346	3.3954	1.94	2.04	3.8270
French franc	1.9700	2.0078	5.20	5.48	5.3425
Japanese yen (100)	5.2981	5.3846	5.20	5.48	5.3425
Dutch florin	0.5954	0.5949	0.57	0.57	0.5915
Swiss franc	2.7143	2.7557	1.72	1.81	2.7405
Spanish peseta (100)	1.7551	1.7895	2.25	2.27	2.3155
Italian lira (1000)	2.2829	2.3299	2.25	2.27	2.3155
Swedish krona	0.4312	0.4382	0.42	0.45	0.4349
Norwegian krone	0.4882	0.4941	0.47	0.51	0.4811
Danish krone	0.5172	0.5258	0.50	0.54	0.5228
Finnish mark	0.5557	0.5673	0.54	0.58	0.5515
Canadian dollar	2.4311	2.4704	2.38	2.51	2.4535
Australian dollar	2.8238	2.8682	2.57	2.71	2.8540
S. African rand	0.8571	0.8729	0.78	0.84	0.8574
Belgian franc (10)	2.8080	2.8533	2.75	2.83	2.8275
Austrian schilling (10)	1.9893	2.0011	1.93	2.03	1.9981
Jordanian dinar	4.8400	4.9800	4.64	4.98	4.7475
Egyptian pound	0.9500	1.0300	0.95	1.03	1.0280
ECU	3.6857	3.7387	3.58	3.73	3.6857
Irish punt	5.1843	5.2781	5.10	5.38	5.2385
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3242	2.3817	2.25	2.40	2.3485

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



SPORTS

in brief

Damon Hill awarded OBE

LONDON (Reuters) - Defending Formula One champion Damon Hill was made one of Britain's highest honors yesterday when he was awarded an Officer of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II.

Hill follows his late father Graham Hill who also was awarded the OBE in 1968 after winning his second world drivers' championship.

Hill won the world championship in a close battle last season driving for Williams-Renault, but was dropped from the team and eventually signed on with the lightly regarded Arrows-Yamaha team.

Klinsmann to leave Bayern Munich

MUNICH (AP) - National captain Jurgen Klinsmann said Monday he is leaving the Bayern Munich soccer team at the end of the season.

"I had a talk with Franz Beckenbauer last week," Klinsmann said of the Bayern team president. "I told him that next season I will probably be playing outside Germany. I don't fit in here."

The 32-year-old Klinsmann has publicly criticized the "too defensive" tactics of coach Giovanni Trapattoni and had a long-running feud with captain Lothar Matthaus.

Mesa faces rape charge

CLEVELAND (AP) - Cleveland Indians relief pitcher Jose Mesa has left spring training to attend a hearing on a rape charge against him.

Mesa, 30, has pleaded innocent to one count of rape, two counts of gross sexual imposition, one count of felonious assault and one count of carrying a concealed weapon. He is free on \$10,000 bond.

Mesa is scheduled for trial March 31, so the Indians don't know whether he will be available for the start of the season April 2 at Oakland. The team is expected to ask the baseball commissioner's office this week for permission to replace Mesa with another pitcher on the 25-man roster while he is on trial.

China on International Rugby Football Board

HONG KONG (AP) - China was formally accepted yesterday as the 76th member of the International Rugby Football Board, the sport's world governing body.

China's admission was welcomed by the board's chairman, Vernon Pugh, in a ceremony at the Hong Kong Football Club.

Meanwhile, a team from the Chinese People's Liberation Army took on a squad from the British military forces in Hong Kong in the Carlsberg 10s rugby tournament.

The Chinese team from the PLA's Sports Institute in the southern city of Guangzhou defeated the Royal Highlanders 12-7 in a preliminary match in the two-day tournament.

Drop Atherton, says Illingworth

LONDON (Reuters) - Mike Atherton should be axed as England captain for the one-day internationals against Australia this year, according to his former chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth.

Illingworth wrote in yesterday's Express newspaper that current chairman David Graveney should give less experienced members of the side a chance to lead the side.

"Graveney said he would consult former England captains Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting - both now England selectors - before making a decision on the captaincy in the next few weeks."

Leeds to fine Yeboah two weeks' wages

LEEDS (Reuters) - Ghanaian striker Tony Yeboah will be fined two weeks' pay for ripping off his Leeds United shirt and throwing it at manager George Graham, the Premier Club said yesterday.

Yeboah threw his shirt towards the manager's dugout after being substituted when Leeds were beaten 1-0 at Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

Yeboah has not seen eye to eye with Graham since December when he started training again after a carilage operation which had kept him out for two months.

The Ghanaian, who joined Leeds from Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt for £3.4 million, argued he was fit to play again. Graham disagreed and kept him on the bench.

Figure skating judging could change

LAUSANNE (Reuters) - International Skating Union (ISU) president Ottavio Cinquanta said yesterday that changes to figure skating's esoteric judging system could occur before next year's Winter Olympics in Japan.

But he stressed that major changes could only be passed by the biennial ISU congress, which does not meet until mid-1998.

Cinquanta is known to be upset at the confusing result of the men's event at the European championships in Paris in January, which he felt was incomprehensible to the public.

He has already ordered an immediate review of the placing system which determines results in figure skating.

Cinquanta is backed in his desire to set up a more easily understood system by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch.

Betar Jerusalem, Mac TA advance to State Cup quarterfinals

By ORI LEWIS

Betar Jerusalem steam-rolled their way into the quarterfinals of soccer's State Cup after a 5-2 victory over Maccabi Herzliya in the round of 16 yesterday.

No less convincing, for a half at least, was Maccabi Tel Aviv's come-from-behind 3-2 victory over Zefirum Holon after they trailed 2-0 at halftime.

Also through from yesterday's matches are Hapoel Beit She'an who reached this stage for the first time after a 3-1 win over Hapoel Jerusalem, Bnei Yehuda who scored a 2-0 extra-time win over Hapoel Haifa, and Hapoel Tel Aviv and Hapoel Beersheba, both of whom needed a penalty shootout to overcome Hapoel and Maccabi Petah Tikva respectively.

The last-16 round continues today when Maccabi Haifa host Second Division leaders Hapoel Ashkelon - the only non-National League team to have made it this far. The final match of the round takes place on March 29 when Hapoel Taiba host Hapoel Kfar Sava.

Bet. Jerusalem 5, Mac. Herzliya 2

Betar began to set their sights on the league and cup double in the fourth minute of the match at Teddy Stadium when Stefan Saloi struck. Eli Ohana then joined in the show, with a hat-trick of goals (51, 58, 68) and Shmulik Levy added the fifth 10 minutes from the end.

Roman Filipchuk (66) and Oleg Neduda

(77) made it a respectable outing for Herzliya, but the visitors never made life difficult for the champions in waiting.

Hap. Beit She'an 3, Hap. Jerusalem 1

When Beit She'an's Golan Deri had his penalty saved by Jaroslav Baku in the third minute and then Jerusalem's Asasi Tubi headed the visitors into the lead with 21 minutes gone, the game looked to be head-

Mac. PT 0, Hap. Beersheba 0 (after extra time)

Beersheba won 4-2 on penalties

Maccabi's Ofer Shirut will no doubt have a sleepless night, not only as a result of missing opportunities to score in the 89th and 118th minutes, but also on missing his attempt in the penalty shootout, as Beersheba coasted through after a generally

the first in the 28th).

But Maccabi clawed their way back into through an Avi Nimni penalty following a foul on Haim Hajaj in the 62nd minute. Ofer Mizrahi wasted no time in equalizing on 66 minutes, and Oren Zeituni scored an own goal with 11 minutes to go.

Hapoel Haifa 0, Bnei Yehuda 2 (after extra time)

Bnei Yehuda finally broke the deadlock in the 97th minute at Kiryat Eliezer when Avi Tikva pounced for the visitors.

That knocked the stuffing out of Haifa, and they gave up all hope after Alon Mizrahi converted a penalty after 115 minutes following a foul on Ofer Deri. Haifa also lost Mario Oliviera, who was shown the red card immediately after the penalty.

Hap. Tel Aviv 0, Hap. PT 0 (after extra time)

Tel Aviv won 6-5 on penalties

A particularly dull 120 minutes came to life in the penalty shootout which required an extra round, following a miss each in the initial five kicks.

Tel Aviv goalkeeper Shavit Elimelech saved twice from the feet of Manor Hassan and Avi Fletcher. Elimelech was the only Tel Aviv player to see his own shot saved by Shai Hess.

Tel Aviv celebrated their first victory under Dror Kashtan, who has yet to lead the team to victory in the league. The hosts' Nissim Avitan was sent off for a challenge on Benny Kozashvili in the 112th minute.

IFA to probe flooding of Petah Tikva pitch

The IFA has ordered private investigations firm Modi in Ezrahi to probe allegations that Hapoel Petah Tikva deliberately flooded their ground ahead of the National League match with Maccabi Herzliya last Saturday. The claim was made yesterday by two "senior soccer officials" who refused to be named.

The two claim they saw the pitch at the Petah Tikva municipal ground drenched on a nevertheless rainy day, causing referee Haim Ya'acov to call off the match 45 minutes before kickoff.

Petah Tikva chairman Lior Shazar was incensed by the allegations saying that "only an evil idiot would do such a thing." The somewhat absurd claim is that Petah Tikva, who lie in second place in the league, preferred to play the match in more comfortable weather conditions, and by flooding the pitch, gave the referee no option but to call off the match.

ing for a Jerusalem victory. But veteran Yehuda Amar equalized three minutes before halftime and then Deri made amends with a headed goal on 63 minutes.

Serjan Chulakovic made the game safe for Beit She'an six minutes later with a finely struck goal.

Zefirum Holon 2, Mac. Tel Aviv 3

Maccabi's hopes of defending the cup and of gaining a place in Europe looked dead and buried when Viktor Moroz scored his second goal to put the home side clearly ahead after 57 minutes (he hit



REJECTION - Nuggets' Antonio McDyess blocks a shot by Lakers' Sean Rooks.

Blaylock's defense lifts Hawks

ATLANTA (AP) - The Atlanta Hawks rallied from a 10-point deficit in the final 48.9 seconds of regulation and beat the Orlando Magic 112-107 in overtime to end a three-game losing streak on Monday.

Steve Smith scored 38 points and Christian Laettner added 27 for the Hawks. But it was Mookie Blaylock who came up with the biggest plays of the game on defense.

Blaylock stole an inbound pass and was fouled by Horace Grant

while driving up the court with 2.3 seconds remaining.

Blaylock hit both free throws to even the score at 98 and send the game into overtime.

Penny Hardaway, who led the Magic with 35 points, scored the first basket of the extra period, but Blaylock put the Hawks ahead to stay, 101-100, on a 3-pointer.

Jazz 114, Hornets 93

Karl Malone scored 37 points, John Stockton reached the 12,000-assist mark as Utah won on the road.

Malone added nine rebounds and five assists as Utah won for the fourth consecutive time and ninth in 10 games.

Stockton, already the NBA's all-time leader in assists and steals, had 23 points to go with five assists and two steals.

Monday's results: Boston 126, Milwaukee 117; Utah 114, Charlotte 93; Atlanta 112, Orlando 107 (OT); Cleveland 85, Detroit 82; Washington 109, San Antonio 85; L.A. Lakers 113, Denver 94; Phoenix 116, Golden State 95.

Magpies crash out of UEFA Cup

MONTE CARLO (Reuters) - Midfielder Ali Benarbia scored two second half goals as Monaco crushed Newcastle United 3-0 in the home leg of their UEFA Cup quarterfinal yesterday to reach the semifinals 4-0 on aggregate.

The French league leaders went in front four minutes before halftime when midfielder Sylvain Legwinski robbed the ball from Peter Beardsley 30 meters out, took three steps and blasted it from the edge of the box past diving goalkeeper Shaka Hislop and just inside his left post.

Seven minutes into the second half the busy Benarbia, heir to Belgian Enzo Scifo as Monaco's playmaker, was in the box to volley home a cross from the right by defender Patrick Blondeau.

Benarbia put the tie totally beyond Newcastle's reach in the 67th minute when he curled a brilliant free kick from the left inside the near post after Robert Lee had fouled Brazilian striker Anderson.

Monaco are now just one round from their second European final after playing in the 1993 Cup Winners' Cup final.

In other UEFA Cup quarterfinal action last night, it was Brondby 0, Tenerife 2 after extra time; and Inter Milan 2, Andriecht 1.

Porto in bid for upset

LONDON (AP) - Portuguese club Porto are all but out of the Champions Cup. Or are they? Porto were the co-favorite with defending champion Juventus just two weeks ago before being soundly thrashed 4-0 in the first leg quarterfinal at Manchester United.

Nobody expects Porto today to get through to the semifinals, with Manchester United trying to become the first English team to win Europe's most important club trophy since Liverpool in 1984.

But there's an upset precedent. Twenty years ago in the Cup Winners' Cup, Porto downed the Reds 4-0 and advanced despite losing 5-2 at Old Trafford.

"Obviously, they are going to come at us - without question," said Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson.

Porto are on the skids. Their lead atop the Portuguese league has been slashed from 15 to seven points in just a month.

SCOREBOARD

NHL - Monday's results: Buffalo 5, Boston 1; Ottawa 4, N.Y. Rangers 3; Florida 4, New Jersey 1; Phoenix 3, St. Louis 2.

CLASSIFIEDS

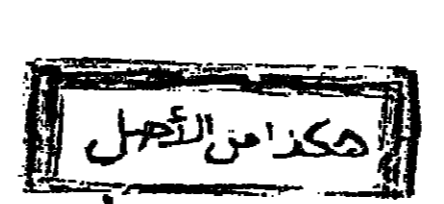
<p>RATES</p> <p>PRICES ARE AS FOLLOWS - All rates include VAT:</p> <p>Single Weekday - NIS 128.70 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 12.87</p> <p>FRIDAY AND HOLIDAY EVE - NIS 158.90 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word NIS 15.89</p> <p>MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY (package) - NIS 292.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 29.25</p> <p>WEEK RATE (6 insertions) - NIS 409.56 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 40.95</p> <p>FOUR FRIDAYS (package) - NIS 526.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 52.65</p> <p>MONTHLY (24 insertions) - NIS 994.50 for 10 words (minimum), each additional word - NIS 99.45</p> <p>New Rates are valid until March 31 1997.</p> <p>DEADLINES offices: Jerusalem - weekdays: 12 noon the day before publication; for Friday 4 p.m. on Thursday. Tel Aviv and Haifa - weekdays: 12 noon, 2 days before publication; for Friday and Sunday: 4 p.m. Thursday in Tel Aviv and 12 noon Thursday in Haifa.</p> <p>For telephone enquiries please call 02-5315644.</p>	<p>DWELLINGS Jerusalem Area</p> <p>HOLIDAY RENTALS</p> <p>BEAUTIFUL, FULLY EQUIPPED 4 room apartment, German Colony, Passover holidays, 17 April - 4 May. Please call Adina or Eli, Tel. 02-673-1537.</p> <p>RASSCO, 3, FULLY equipped, short term/hourly, all amenities close by. Tel/Fax: 02-671-9080.</p> <p>RENTALS</p> <p>GERMAN COLONY, UNIQUE, 3 or 4, garden, basement, parking, long term, immediate. (No commission). DIVIROLI SIANI, Tel. 02-5612424.</p> <p>RAMOT ALEPH, 3 1/2 rooms, + balcony, partly furnished. From 15 April - 1st Sept. Tel. 02-6527982</p> <p>SALES</p> <p>BARGAIN! KIRYAT SHMUEL, near theater, 3.5, green, 2nd floor, \$245,000. ANGLIO SAXON (MALDAN), Tel. 02-525-1161.</p> <p>BET SHEMESH, 4 rooms, 1st floor, Solomon, Nof Hapark. Tel. 02-997-4180.</p> <p>EFRAI PROPERTIES: SINGLE & 2 family homes, cottages & apartments. GERI FARKAS, Tel. 02-993-3247.</p> <p>GERMAN COLONY, PENTHOUSE, 600 m. + cottage 300 m., luxurious, swimming pool. Tel. 02-537-6777, 02-563-6814.</p> <p>GERMAN COLONY, LARGE, unique 2.3 or 4. Basement, garden, immediate (no commissions). DIVIROLI SIANI, Tel. 02-561-2424.</p>	<p>DWELLINGS Jerusalem Area</p> <p>WHERE TO STAY</p> <p>3 BEDROOM APARTMENT in Jerusalem available April 16 - 30. Fully furnished. Also, holiday apartment, fully equipped in Tiberies. Fax: 02-581-1385, Tel. 02-581-0870.</p> <p>DWELLINGS Tel Aviv</p> <p>SALES/RENTALS</p> <p>RAMAT AVIV GIMMEL, superb penthouse, rent/sale, suitable for couple. Yael Realtor, Malkan. Tel. 03-642-6263.</p> <p>DWELLINGS Sharon Area</p> <p>RENTALS</p> <p>FOR DIPLOMAT, HERZLIYA PITUAH, 5 rooms + salon and basement, large, in quiet area. Tel. 09-968-8003/4.</p> <p>HERZLIYA PITUAH, LARGE house by sea, possible exchange in New York or Europe, immediate. Tel. 09-957-1504.</p> <p>SALES</p> <p>CAESAREA, LUXURIOUS HOUSE, pool, air conditioning, central vacuum. Tel. 050-231-726, 05-836-3261.</p> <p>BUSINESS OFFERS Jerusalem</p> <p>BUS. PREMISES</p> <p>STORE IN KIKAR DENYA, Beit Hakerem, long term. Tel. 02-566-4667 (day), 02-563-9588 (evenings).</p>	<p>BUSINESS OFFERS Tel Aviv</p> <p>INVESTMENT</p> <p>\$50,000 FOR PARTNERSHIP in hotels business in Tel Aviv, building apartments on roof-tops. Tel. 03-633-6415, 03-602-2478, 052-737833, 050-405680.</p> <p>SITUATIONS VACANT Jerusalem</p> <p>MANAGERIAL</p> <p>CAFE MANAGER, FLUENT Hebrew/English, computer skills, top salary and incentives. Tel. 052-679-769 (NS).</p> <p>SALES PERSONNEL</p> <p>WELL-KNOWN GALLERY, SEEKING experienced saleswoman, fluent English. Tel. 02-623-2397, 02-625-3523 (10-1, 4/7).</p> <p>SITUATIONS VACANT Tel Aviv</p> <p>HOUSEHOLD HELP</p> <p>IMMEDIATE JOBS AVAILABLE, friendly families, best conditions, the agency with a heart for the Au Pairs. Call Hanna, Tel. (03) 955-9937.</p> <p>DRIVE CAREFULLY</p> <p>COUPLE FOR HOUSEKEEPING child-care. Warm family. Excellent conditions. Live-in. Tel. 03-635-7844.</p>	<p>FOR NICE FAMILY, au pair, good conditions, high salary. Tel. 03-537-1038.</p> <p>SERIOUS, IMMEDIATE, FOR house in Northern Tel Aviv, part-time, 6 days. Tel. 03-655-5144.</p> <p>MISC.</p> <p>DANISH, FINNISH & Korean-speakers wanted for permanent job in Ramat Gan. High salary. Call Eran, Tel. 03-575-8255.</p> <p>OFFICE STAFF</p> <p>COMPANY SECRETARY, ENGLISH mother tongue, export, dynamic environment. Experience. Tel. 03-681-6095.</p> <p>SECRETARY/TYPIST, GERMAN/ENGLISH, 1/2 day, 5 days/weekly. Tel. 03-544-1948.</p> <p>SITUATIONS VACANT Sharon Area</p> <p>HOUSEHOLD HELP</p> <p>AU PAIR, TRAVEL, immediate, high salary, 2 children, light housekeeping. Tel. 09-771-0463, 052-801536.</p> <p>CAREGIVER FOR 24 hour/day service, live-in, for handicapped woman in Ra'anana, immediate, prefer Hungarian speaker. Tel. 052-591-149, 09-771-6153.</p>	<p>PURCHASE/SALES Sharon Area</p> <p>HOUSEHOLD GOODS</p> <p>LEAVING COUNTRY - AMANA, Miele, DeDietrich, furniture, Florida Civic coupe, fully equipped. '96. Tel. 09-740-3827.</p> <p>LOST & FOUND Tel Aviv</p> <p>LOST</p> <p>MOVADO STAINLESS STEEL ladies' watch, sentimental value, reward, lost 14/3 in front of T.A. museum. Tel. 03-535-3675 (Rose).</p> <p>VEHICLES Jerusalem</p> <p>UNRESTRICTED</p> <p>ARIE PALOGUE - QUALITY CARS: buying, selling, leasing, trading. Tel. 02-6523735, 050-240977.</p> <p>VEHICLES Tel Aviv</p> <p>PASSPORT</p> <p>PONTIAC FIERRO, SPORT, limited edition, mint condition. Tel. 052-315-377, 03-690-2777 (room 328).</p>
---	---	---	--	---	---

Mac Manager

Newspaper seeks assistant Macintosh System Manager. Position involves maintaining a network of Macs and PC's, support for editing and layout, as well as imaging/production and Internet (e-mail, FTP, etc).

Solid knowledge (more than basic use at a single station) of Macintosh OS networks and QuarkXpress required; experience with Windows 95 & 3.1, HTML, Photoshop, WWW, Novell 4.1 a plus.

Call (02)531-5653, fax C.V. to (02)537-6553, attr: jay or email to j@ipost.co.il



IAF chief: Arabs winning arms race

Ben-Eliahu says Israel needs space defense

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The arms race is tipping more and more in favor of the Arabs and Israel needs to achieve superiority in space to cover itself on all fronts, OC Air Force Maj-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu said yesterday.

"Just now, during an atmosphere of peace, a situation has been created where the strategic balance with the neighboring states is changing in a worrisome way," Ben-Eliahu told a conference on avionics at the Dan Panorama in Tel Aviv.

He said that some 350-400 surface-to-air missile batteries exist in the Middle East and that Syria has some 800 surface-to-surface missiles. It is estimated that Syria will have some 1,500 such missiles within the next three years.

This figure is much higher than Israeli strategists have previously thought and shows that the Syrians are serious about maintaining a military option, he said.

Ben-Eliahu also said Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Iran all have chemical weapons, and that once the embargo is eased, Iraq will quickly resume its efforts to obtain nuclear weapons.

"We think that there is a nuclear potential even though the installations were destroyed ... what

remains is the knowledge, the brains, the people. The moment the embargo is lifted, the moment there is freedom, there is no reason why Iraq won't try again to fulfill its desire to reach nuclear capability," Ben-Eliahu said.

"But the capability and desire for nuclear weapons and non-conventional weapons are not found only in Iraq, they are also found in Iran. We estimate that within four or five years, it will be able to set up a factory that will be able to produce enriched uranium. We think that in an additional two or three years ... it will be able to put them in missile warheads."

Syria gave up its quest for strategic parity about a decade ago, experts say. Instead, after seeing the effects of Iraqi Scud bombing on Israel, it began heavily investing in surface-to-surface missiles.

According to Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies' Middle East Military Balance, Syria has 62 surface-to-surface missiles in service, but Yiftah Shapir, a researcher, has said the Syrians actually have 200-300 Scuds.

Ben-Eliahu said that when the political situation is more relaxed Israel is able to divert more funds into research and development, but that this period has ended.



Preparing for Purim

Two young patients at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital get ready for Purim with the help of a student from Seminar Hakibbutzim Teachers' College yesterday. Students training to be preschool teachers brought hamantaschen, noisemakers, and makeup to a children's ward at the hospital.

(Hanoach Grizitzky)

BACKGROUND

Bar-On inquiry comes to a close

By RAINE MARCUS

The questions keeping the central figures in the Bar-On affair awake at night as the investigation comes to a close are whether indictments will be issued against any of those allegedly involved, and what the ramifications of that would be, should it occur.

Channel 1 reporter Ayala Hasson's January broadcast alleging that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman, MK Aryeh Deri, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and businessman David Appel among others were all involved in a conspiracy to appoint little-known Jerusalem lawyer Roni Bar-On as attorney-general in return for Shas's sup-

port for the Hebron redeployment caused a furor and sparked a two-month police investigation in which over 35 people were questioned.

Would the government fall? Were Netanyahu or Lieberman involved in criminal offenses more suited to a third-world dictatorship than an ostensibly democratic state? Who leaked the information, or disinformation, to Hasson, and why?

The government is not likely to fall as the result of this probe. Although Netanyahu and Lieberman were questioned — the latter more than once — sources said that while offenses were apparently committed, it is doubtful that police have been able to corroborate Hasson's report.

Police learned early on who leaked the story. Hasson, who

claimed she had documentation to back her story, was summoned to give evidence. So was Deri's then lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, who had himself wished to become the attorney-general, something Deri resisted, not wanting his top lawyer to abandon his trial in the middle. Avi-Yitzhak then resigned from Deri's case and in a letter to his

named by Hasson as the intermediary in the affair, he was also questioned several times. He vehemently denied all involvement and filed a NIS 5 million libel suit against Hasson and her superiors, JBA news director Rafik Halabi and director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum. Ministers and MKs who opposed the Bar-On appointment were also questioned.

Hanegbi, who is suspected of submitting misleading information to the cabinet before it voted on Bar-On's appointment, was questioned for the third time yesterday, and police said that the probe is finally complete. The investigating team will convene with State Attorney Edna Arbel tomorrow with recommendations as to who, if anyone, to indict on breach of trust and other charges.

BAR-ON

clint, cited the MK's alleged involvement in the Bar-On affair as one of the reasons. Appel, Deri's confidante, was

State opposes Dotan early release

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The state plans to oppose the early release of embezzler Rami Dotan from prison when the petitions to the High Court of Justice are heard.

Dotan, a former brigadier-general and IDF chief procurement officer, was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment and demoted to private in 1991, for embezzling over \$10 million from military contracts.

The state's decision was made at a meeting yesterday between the attorney-general, the state attorney, the IDF judge-advocate general and representatives of the defense ministry and IDF medical corps.

"The state will appear as a respondent and will express the opinion that the decision [to free Dotan from jail] at this stage, after serving half his sentence, should be changed," a statement released after the meeting said.

"It is possible under military law [as opposed to civilian law] to free someone after half a sentence instead of two-thirds, but it is not mandatory," the statement said.

A military parole board decided last week to free Dotan on

April 21 on grounds of ill-health.

The statement issued yesterday noted the severity of the crimes for which Dotan was convicted and the unusual security and public aspects of the Dotan affair, saying that damage to the country's security and educational considerations had to be weighed against considerations about Dotan's health troubles.

Earlier, President Ezer Weizman took the unusual step of turning to the attorney-general with a request that he petition the High Court on behalf of the

state against the decision to give Dotan an early release, so that he should serve out his term in jail.

"The entire public was shocked by his deeds," Weizman said in a letter to the attorney-general.

Weizman noted that there were court precedents for refusing to grant parole on grounds of chronic illness.

Some 60 MKs had appealed to Weizman to intervene in the matter.

Yesterday afternoon, Meretz party leader Yossi Sarid and the Movement for Quality Government in Israel presented separate petitions to the High Court against freeing Dotan.

Earlier, Amitai, the Citizens for Good Government movement, also petitioned the High Court against the decision.

WEATHER

Golan 0-5

Haifa 9-16

Tiberias 7-15

Afula 6-12

Samarra 3-5

Tel Aviv 9-14

Jerusalem 2-7

Beersheba 8-15

Dead Sea 0-18

Eilat 10-20

Forecast: Rain.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	COND.		
	C	F			
Amsterdam	04	39	11	cloud	
Cairo	10	53	19	clear	
Chicago	00	32	18	snow	
London	08	48	11	cloudy	
Los Angeles	12	54	17	clear	
New York	05	42	17	cloudy	
Sydney	16	64	26	79	clear

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 10 of spades, ace of hearts, jack of diamonds and seven of clubs.

The winning numbers in last night's Lotto drawing were 3, 8, 11, 37, 39, and 47; the supplementary number was 43.

Cable mishap inquiry slammed

The Winograd Commission, the external panel probing the August 1992 accident in which Gil Tzuriano and Assaf Rosenberg, both members of the air force rescue unit, were killed, yesterday severely criticized the initial air force investigation of the tragedy.

The two soldiers were killed when a cable pulling them up to a helicopter snapped during a training exercise.

The criticism came as Maj-Gen. (res.) Herzl Bodinger, who commanded the air force at the time and appointed the members of the original investigatory panel, was giving testimony.

Although three separate air force panels probed the accident, the civilian panel, headed by retired judge Eilahu Winograd, concentrated on the first of them, which submitted its findings in February 1993.

The commission members, particularly Winograd and Maj-Gen. (res.) Raphael Vardi, wanted to know why the initial panel's draft report, which found several officers responsible for the accident, was submitted to senior air force officers for their comments. This led to changes in the draft and the final report, submitted to Bodinger, eliminated the officers' responsibility.

Bodinger said he did not recall the differences between the final report and the draft, but said it is common practice to submit reports to senior officers for comment, and this often leads to changes in the report. (Hm)

The Felicia Blumental Concert Series 1996/1997

Founder & Artistic Director: Annette Celine

Saturday, 22 March 1997, 8.30 p.m.

Leon and Mathilda Recanati Auditorium

Iana Burtman, Mai Israeli, Anna Skibinsky, Rona Israel - sopranos
Adi Yeshua - tenor
Svetlana Sandler - contralto
Raissa Triebich - piano

GYPSY FEVER

a Purim gala

Excerpts from
Carmen and Fledermaus
Gypsy songs by
Dvofak and Schumann

WITH SPECIAL SURPRISE GUESTS!

Tickets: NIS 30, available at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art Box Office
Tel. 03-6961297, 27 Shaul Hamelech Blvd., Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART

REGULAR TOURS - HOTELS - PACKAGE DEALS

To JORDAN EGYPT and ISRAEL

TRAVEL WITH THE EXPERTS

MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS

Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Qatar, Oman, Iraq

- Tourist bus service to Amman and Cairo
- All tourism services, including visas
- Midnight express bus

Exclusive Daily

Special mini-van!

The only one of its kind!
Air-conditioned!
Armoured!
Especially secure!
Protected!
Exclusive for trips to Jordan!

SEASON'S SPECIAL
Rent a car • Hotels • Flight
Diving • Safari • Private tour
MAZADA TOURS

TEL-AVIV: 141 Ibn Gvirol St., Tel. 972-3-5444454, Fax. 972-3-5481928
JERUSALEM: Tel. 02-6235777, Fax. 02-6255456 HAIFA: 04-8624440

over the rainbow's PUPPET THEATER

FEATURING THE OVER THE RAINBOW MARIONETTES

The play's the thing! Bring out the budding actor in your child with our bright, sturdy canvas, portable Puppet Theater. Every child loves and needs to express themselves through role playing, and puppets have long been a child's most beloved pastime. This cleverly designed fabric theater is up and ready for play in minutes, can hang in any standard doorway (comes with 70 to 90 cm adjustable tension rod) and rolls up for easy storage. Punch and Judy move over! Puppet Theater (w/70cm x Ht. 1.72m), NIS 150

puppets cleverly designed for the littlest fingers

IT'S ALL IN THE WRIST

Order these ingenious marionettes designed for our theater. Hand crafted, easy to use. Royal family includes King, Queen, Royal Horse, Mordechai and Haman... NIS 48 each

Also available: Witch, Clown, Boy, Girl, Mother & Father... NIS 48 each.

Books, The Jerusalem Post, POB 61, Jerusalem 91000

Please send me:

Item	Price
_____	_____
Subtotal	_____
* Handling and delivery NIS 19	_____
Total	_____

Enclosed check payable to: The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details

Visa MasterCard Diner AmEx

C.C.# _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Date _____ Phone (day) _____

ID No _____ Signature _____

*Phone for credit card cash

boritec

The 9th International Cooperation, Development and Investment Exchange

Milan, October 28-30, 1997

Entrepreneurs interested in presenting projects for joint-ventures or industrial cooperations are invited to get in touch with the Boritec Organization Service.

Boritec experts will immediately contact them during their visit in the country.

FIERA MILANO

Apply for information to:
BORITEC Organization Service
Largo Domodossola 1 - 20145 Milano, Italy
Tel. +39-2-4997.7411/7412
Fax +39-2-4997.7481 - Tx 331360-332221 EAFMI

הכזמן האחרון